Proposed Final

20187 Amendment to the 2002 Gore Mountain Unit Management Plan

and

DraftFinal Generic Environmental Impact Statement

(Public Draft)

NEW YORK STATE OF OPPORTUNITY.

Olympic Regional Development Authority

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

I. INTRODUCTION

This 2018~~7~~ Unit Management Plan (UMP) Amendment has been prepared in accordance with the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan (APSLMP or SLMP), addresses changes to the 2002 UMP and the 2005 UMP Amendment thereto, and adds several new management actions. This 2017~~7~~8 UMP Amendment lists and reviews the status of the 1995, 2002 and 2005 management actions and identifies those management actions that have been completed, those which are pending, and those that are modified or abandoned within this 2017~~7~~8 UMP Amendment. Previous UMP documents are incorporated by reference into this document.

Since the completion of the last UMP Amendment, Gore Mountain has received recognition from the Ski Industry and the press for, not only its quality skiing experience, but also for its environmental stewardship. In May 2016, Gore Mountain was awarded the esteemed Golden Eagle for Overall Environmental Excellence by a ski area from the National Ski Areas Association. The Golden Eagle is the industry's most prestigious award for sustainability and Gore's broad range of environmental stewardship across several areas of its operation was integral to its win.

Gore Mountain successfully demonstrated that a growing resort[1] can at the same time be sustainable. Projects that contributed to this award were Gore's contracting of two 25-year solar power purchasing agreements, strategic trail modifications to increase uphill operational efficiency, energy-saving snowmaking, creative repurposing of buildings, the redevelopment of historic trails, various education efforts and Gore's increased provision of locally sourced food.

II. 2017~~7~~8 UMP AMENDMENT MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

New management actions are identified and analyzed in this 2018~~7~~ UMP Amendment. The potential environmental impacts and the attendant proposed mitigation measures for any new or modified management actions are also identified and discussed. The potential impacts and

[1] Gore's acreage and uphill capacity have increased 131 percent and 142 percent respectively over the past 20 years.

the identified mitigation measures for the previously approved UMP management actions remain in effect and will not be repeated here, but are incorporated by reference.

The following lists the New Management Actions that are the subject of this UMP Amendment and that can be undertaken after the UMP Amendment is adopted. See **Figure** ES-1, 2018~~7~~ Master Plan (South) and **Figure** ES-2, 2018~~7~~ Master Plan (North).

Trail Construction and Trail Widening

- Construct a new trail at Burnt Ridge that connects to the Base Lodge via the lower portion of Echo
- Widen the bottom of Echo as it turns toward the base area
- Widen some sections of Twister
- Widen Sunway and other green trails served by Lift 3

Lifts

- Add a new triple or quad chair (Lift 9B) from Northwoods Lodge up Lower Sunway to just past the bend in Lower Sunway

Vehicular Access and Parking

- Modify the 1995-approved shuttle lane separated from and independent of main traffic route and circulation route and parking

Buildings

- Expand the NYSEF building
- Reconfigure the 1995-approved maintenance complex to locate groomer garage and fueling station adjacent to Sunway trail

Snowmaking

- Enlarge the snowmaking reservoir
- Install a new 24 inch gravity water line from the snowmaking reservoir to the pump house

Mountain Biking

- Construct a single-track bike trail loop for Town trail at the top of Little Gore

Hiking

- Develop a hiking center based out of the Northwoods Lodge.

Requests for Land Reclassifications

- Request a land reclassification from Wild Forest to Intensive Use and from Intensive Use to Wilderness which could allow the historic Rabbit Pond Trail to be used as a trail, if authorized in a subsequent UMP.

(Note: The Adirondack Park Agency (APA) cannot find that a UMP Amendment proposing management actions on lands to be reclassified conforms to the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan (APSLMP) before the land is reclassified. First, the Agency must receive a request to reclassify, accompanied by a UMP for the proposed Intensive Use lands. The Agency must follow SEQRA regulations regarding public notice and comment and must hold hearings inside and outside the Adirondack Park on the request to reclassify, pursuant to the APSLMP. After notice, comment and hearings, the reclassification proposals would be presented to the Agency for a recommendation to the Governor for approval of the classification. The process culminates in the Governor's action on that recommendation. This UMP Amendment does not assume that a reclassification request will be approved and does not authorize any actions on lands requested to be reclassified, based on a proposed future classification. The actual request for reclassification and a UMP Amendment for those actions on the lands proposed for reclassification would be presented separately from this UMP Amendment. Discussion of actions on those lands in this UMP is conceptual only, and those actions cannot be authorized by this UMP Amendment.)

These management actions are discussed in the context of existing resources, facilities and use (Section 3) and ORDA's Management and Policy relating to the Gore Mountain Intensive Use Area (Section 3). The management actions themselves are described in detail in Section 4.

An introductory section (Section 1) first gives an overview of project purpose, a general facility description, the history of the ski area, a description of the UMP/GEIS process and a summary update of the status of actions contained in previous UMPs.

III. SEQRA PROCESS

ORDA, as the Agency responsible for undertaking the actions in this 2018~~7~~ UMP Amendment/DGEIS, completed a New York State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) Full Environmental Assessment Form (FEAF)Parts 1, 2, and 3 (See Appendix 1). Based on the analysis in Part 3 of the FEAF, ORDA determined that the Project may result in one or more significant adverse impacts on the environment and this Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) must be prepared to further assess the impacts and possible mitigation and to explore alternatives to avoid or reduce these impacts.

The SEQRA aspects of this document are presented as a Generic Environmental Impact Statement (GEIS). A Generic EIS may be used to assess the environmental effects of a sequence of actions contemplated by a single agency or an entire program or plan having wide application (6NYCRR 617.10(a)(2) and (4)). They differ from a site specific EIS in that it applies to a group of common and related activities which have similar or related impacts. It is the intent of this GEIS to provide sufficient, site-specific information for all aspects of this UMP Amendment. In conformance with SEQRA, these related actions are being considered in this ~~D~~FGEIS. No additional SEQRA analyses are anticipated to be required for any management action in this UMP, provided that such actions are carried out in accordance with the recommendations of this document. Conceptual actions are subject to future SEQRA analyses should they be pursued in the future.

A preliminary version of the~~is~~ UMP Draft Amendment/DGEIS was provided to NYSDEC and to the APA for their review on December 8, 2017. Comments from these agencies were received by ORDA, and ORDA revised the preliminary document accordingly. ORDA then declared that~~is~~ document to be complete for public review on January 3, 2018. Notice of ORDA's acceptance of the DGEIS, establishment of the public comment period, and directions for accessing th~~is~~at document were published in the January 10, 2018 issue of the Environmental Notice Bulletin. The Public Draft UMP Amendment/DGEIS was presented to the NYS APA at their January 11, 2018 Agency meeting.

The~~is~~ Draft 201~~7~~8 UMP~~-~~ Amendment/DGEIS ~~is~~was open for public comment until February 9, 2018 including a SEQRA public hearing ~~scheduled for~~held at 7:00 PM on January 24, 2018 at the Gore Mountain Base Lodge. Responses were prepared to comments received at the public hearing and to written comments submitted during the public comment period. A transcript of the public hearing, copies of written comments and responses to comments are included in this FGEIS. Also included in this FGEIS is an errata section that summarizes the changes that were made to the DGEIS when preparing this FGEIS.

~~Notice of ORDA's acceptance of the DGEIS, establishment of the public comment period, and directions for accessing this document were published in the January 10, 2018 issue of the Environmental Notice Bulletin.~~

Part 3 of the FEAF identified those topics for which additional information was required within the GEIS. Primary concerns include steep slope soil erosion and water quality, water quality impacts associated with enlargement of the snowmaking reservoir, and potential impacts to the Bicknell's thrush, a species of special concern in New York State. Potential impacts and mitigation measures for these topics and a range of other topics are discussed in detail in Section 5 of this ~~Draft~~ UMP/FGEIS.

Section 6 considers alternatives to the new management actions including alternative trail improvements, lift configurations, parking and circulation and appurtenances.

ORDA is currently contemplating simultaneous improvements on Town of Johnsburg owned lands at the North Creek Ski Bowl, outside of the Intensive Use Area. Because these actions are not within the Intensive Use Area, they are not covered within this ~~Draft~~ UMP Amendment. Instead, these actions will be subject to APA review under section 814 of the Adirondack Park Agency Act and also subject to review under SEQRA. In order to make the requisite assessment of cumulative impacts, this ~~Draft~~ UMP Amendment/GEIS is accompanied by two companion documents which will be referred to as Part B and Part C (Part A being the ~~Draft~~ UMP/GEIS). Part B is the Ski Bowl Notice of Intent to the APA required under section 814 and accompanying SEQRA documentation. Part C is a cumulative impact assessment of the actions proposed within the Intensive Use Area and the actions proposed at the Ski Bowl.

IV. CONFORMANCE WITH THE APSLMP

It is stated in Section I of the APSLMP that "In accordance with statutory mandate, all [unit management] plans will conform to the guidelines and criteria set forth in the master plan …."

The *following is from the Intensive Use Area portion of Section 2 of the APSLMP*, and includes descriptions of how this ~~draft~~ UMP Amendment conforms to the stated guidelines.

Guidelines for Management and Use

Basic Guidelines

1. *The primary management guideline for Intensive Use Areas will be to provide the public opportunities for family group camping, developed swimming and boating, downhill skiing, cross country skiing under competitive or developed conditions on improved cross country ski trails, visitor information and similar outdoor recreational pursuits in a setting and on a scale that are in harmony with the relatively wild and undeveloped character of the Adirondack Park.*

   The Gore Mountain Intensive Use Area will continue to provide opportunities for downhill skiing, cross-country skiing and similar outdoor recreational pursuits.

   There are no new management actions in this ~~draft~~ UMP Amendment that change the current setting or scale of the facilities at Gore Mountain. One ski lift will be slightly relocated and replaced while another lift will be added in the same general area to provide better service on the beginner ski terrain low on the mountain. Selective trail widening will occur on the trails served by these lifts. A single new ski trail is proposed to be constructed in between existing ski trails in order to provide a connection between Burnt Ridge and the Base Area during those times when the Echo trail is being used for ski racing and is not available for public use. Selective trail widening on the Twister trail is limited in nature and is intended to provide a more uniform trail width along its length.

2. *All intensive use facilities should be located, designed and managed so as to blend with the Adirondack environment and to have the minimum adverse impact possible on surrounding state lands and nearby private holdings. They will not be situated where they will aggravate problems on lands already subject to or threatened by overuse, such as the eastern portion of the High Peaks Wilderness, the Pharaoh Lake Wilderness or the St. Regis Canoe Area or where they will have a negative impact on competing private facilities. Such facilities will be adjacent to or serviceable from existing public road systems or water bodies open to motorboat use within the Park.*

   All of the new management actions proposed in this UMP Amendment, and that can take place after the adoption of this UMP Amendment, are located low on the mountain where they will not cause a visual impact (see UMP section V.C.I). All actions are located in the interior of the Intensive Use Area removed from adjoining State and private lands. This UMP amendment is not proposing any significant enlargement of the ski area, so

there is no potential for adversely affecting lands subject or threatened by overuse or competing private facilities.

3. *Construction and development activities in Intensive Use Areas will:*

-- avoid material alteration of wetlands;
Impacts to wetlands have been avoided (see UMP section V.A.5).
-- minimize extensive topographic alterations;
No extensive topographic alterations are proposed (see UMP section V.A.3).
-- limit vegetative clearing;
Vegetative clearing has been limited and it is well within the limits established by Article 14~~XIV~~ of the NYS Constitution (see UMP section V.B.1 and Appendix 5).
and,
-- preserve the scenic, natural and open space resources of the Intensive Use Area.
See items 1 and 2 above.

4. *Day use areas will not provide for overnight camping or other overnight accommodations for the public.*

No overnight accommodations, camping or otherwise, are proposed.

5. *Priority should be given to the rehabilitation and modernization of existing Intensive Use Areas and the complete development of partially developed existing Intensive Use Areas before the construction of new facilities is considered.*

The actions contained in this ~~draft~~ UMP amendment are for the improvement and modernization of the existing Gore Mountain Intensive Use Area.

6. *Additions to the intensive use category should come either from new acquisitions or from the reclassification of appropriate wild forest areas, and only in exceptional circumstances from wilderness, primitive or canoe areas.*

This ~~draft~~ UMP amendment suggests land reclassification that would include an addition to the Intensive Use Area from the Vanderwhacker Mountain Wild Forest and an addition to the Siamese Ponds Wilderness Area from the Intensive Use Area (see UMP section IV.8).

7. *Any request for classification of a new acquisition or reclassification of existing lands from another land use category to an Intensive Use Area will be accompanied by a draft unit management plan for the proposed Intensive Use Area that will demonstrate how the applicable guidelines will be respected.*

These same ten Intensive Use Area guidelines from the SLMP will be examined~~-~~ for the lands requested for reclassification (see UMP section IV.8).

8. *No new structures or improvements at any Intensive Use Area will be constructed except in conformity with a final adopted unit management plan for such area. This guideline will not prevent the ordinary maintenance, rehabilitation or minor relocation of conforming structures or improvements.*

None of the new management actions contained in this ~~draft~~ UMP amendment will be constructed unless and until they are included in the final UMP amendment adopted by NYSDEC.

9. *Since the concentrations of visitors at certain intensive use facilities often pose a threat of water pollution, the state should set an example for the private sector by installing modern sewage treatment systems with the objective of maintaining high water quality. Standards for the state should in no case be less than those for the private sector and in all cases any pit privy, leach field or seepage pit will be at least 150 feet from the mean high water mark of any lake, pond, river or stream.*

No in-ground wastewater treatment is proposed.

10. *Any new, reconstructed or relocated buildings or structures located on shorelines of lakes, ponds, rivers or major streams, other than docks, primitive tent sites not a part of a campground (which will be governed by the general guidelines for such sites set forth elsewhere in this master plan) boat launching sites, fishing and waterway access sites, boathouses, and similar water related facilities, will be set back a minimum of 150 feet from the mean high water mark and will be located so as to be reasonably screened from the water body to avoid intruding on the natural character of the shoreline and the public enjoyment and use thereof.*

No new buildings or structures are proposed anywhere near any shorelines.

V. IMPACT ANALYSIS

A. Geology

Bedrock is at or near the ground surface in many locations in the Gore Mountain Intensive Use Area.

Bedrock may be encountered when constructing a portion of the dedicated shuttle lane. There is an area of Lyman-Rock Outcrop soils between parking lot E and the base lodge. It may be necessary to blast some bedrock to create the shuttle lane through this area. It is also possible that blasting may be necessary as part of some of the trail creation or trail widening management actions. Bedrock may also be encountered when enlarging the snowmaking reservoir which could also necessitate blasting. Hermon-Lyman-Rock Outcrop soils are mapped on the north and south sides of the reservoir.

As described in UMP Section II.A.1.a, the landform that is Gore Mountain, including the Barton garnet mine that is located on the north side of the mountain, is considered a unique geologic feature because of the nearby garnet deposits (http://www.dec.ny.gov/permits/53858.html). These deposits will not be affected by the construction activities associated with the shuttle lane or the snowmaking reservoir which are both located at low elevations on the mountain.

ORDA will employ the services of a professional, licensed and insured blasting company to perform any needed blasting. Blasters in New York State are required to possess a valid NY State Department of Labor issued Explosive License and Blaster Certificate of Competence. The Explosives License permits the licensee to purchase, own, possess or transport explosives. The Blaster Certificate of Competence permits the use of explosives.

If it is determined that blasting will be required, a written blasting plan will be developed and approved prior to the commencement of blasting. In general, the blast plan will contain information about the blasting methods to be employed, measures to be taken to protect the safety of the public, and how the applicable rules and regulations will be complied with. If during the evolution of the project there are significant changes in the blast design a new blast plan will be required. A test shot will be required for the first shot after the approval of each blast plan.

See Section V.A.1 for a full description of all of the measures ORDA will implement to mitigate potential impacts from any blasting that may be required.

B. Soils

Soil Erodibility (K) Factors are discussed in Section2.A.1.b of the UMP. “K” is one factor used to calculate potential soil loss using the Revised Universal Soil Loss Equation (RUSLE). Other factors in RUSLE include slope length (L) and slope steepness (S).

Construction of most new Management Actions is proposed on soils with an “E” slope category. E soils are described as steep. Some new management actions are proposed on soils with a “C” slope category. C soils are described as sloping.

Disturbance of areas of steep slopes during construction can lead to an increased vulnerability of the soils to erosion. Suitable measures must be implemented to first prevent soil erosion and then second to make sure that any soils that are eroded are contained and prevented for causing sedimentation in receiving waters.

ORDA will implement proper erosion and sediment control practices when undertaking construction practices at their venues that oftentimes involve construction on steep slopes. These proper practices are set forth in the New York State Standards and Specifications for Erosion and Sediment Control (last updated November 2016). These standards and specifications will be used to develop Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plans (SWPPPs) for

construction activities in accordance with NYSDEC's SPDES General Permit for Stormwater Discharge from Construction Activity, GP-0-15-002.

SWPPPS will detail those measures that will be implemented during construction to mitigate potential soil erosion and surface water sedimentation. SWPPP content will include such things as construction sequencing and phasing, temporary and permanent stabilization, structural erosion control practices and vegetative control practices. SWPPPs will include provisions for monitoring, inspections, data collection, and compliance documentation.

Section V.A.2 provides a lengthy and detailed description of mitigation measures that ORDA commonly and successfully employs during ski area construction activities that will be incorporated into pre-construction SWPPP plans and specifications, and installed, monitored and maintained during construction until soils become stabilized.

C. Topography and Slope

Very limited grading is required for new ski trails, trail widening or ski lifts. Trails are laid out to follow natural fall lines. Lift grading is limited to the upper and lower terminals and at the lift tower foundations.

Grading will be required to create the building pad for the groomer garage as well as for sections of the shuttle lane. Significant grading (excavation) is proposed for the enlargement of the snowmaking reservoir.

Impacts associated with grading involve erosion and sediment control (see the previous section) and protection of water resources (see the following section).

D. Water Resources

Identified impacts to surface water are (1) sedimentation of eroded soils, (2) increased stormwater runoff with accompanying loadings (nutrients, dissolved solids, etc.), and (3) exposure of disturbed soils in the snowmaking reservoir expansion area along with separating clean inflow waters from the active construction areas during reservoir excavation.

Those measures that will be implemented to prevent erosion and subsequent sedimentation were described previously in the Soils section.

The new management actions include only two actions that will introduce significant amounts of new impervious surfaces that will increase stormwater runoff. These are the new groomer garage and those portions of the shuttle lane that will be outside of existing parking areas and drives. A Stormwater Management Report has been prepared for these two actions. See UMP Appendix 7.

The Project has been designed in accordance with Chapter 4 of the NYSDEC Stormwater Management Design Manual (SWMDM), and NYSDEC's General Permit GP-0-15-002 for construction activities. Stormwater calculations were performed utilizing widely accepted engineering methodologies, including TR-55, and the stormwater modeling computer program HydroCAD (version 10.00) produced by HydroCAD Software Solutions, LLC.

Under the watershed's proposed condition, all stormwater from the Project will continue to discharge to the same point as in the existing condition (Analysis Points 1 & 2). The total watershed has generally remained unchanged, as is shown on the drawing "W-2 Proposed Conditions Watershed Map" contained in Appendix 7. To meet NYSDEC requirements (see Section 5.0, NYSDEC Design Criteria in Appendix 7) a bioretention basin and wet swale have been incorporated into the stormwater management design to mitigate the quality and quantity of stormwater runoff discharged from the Project Site.

For the snowmaking reservoir expansion, first the reservoir will be fully drained through its drain valve. Once the reservoir is drained a haul road stabilized outlet will be created in the southeast corner of the reservoir where the remnant of a haul road currently exists. Next, a rip rap stream channel will be constructed to convey water from the main reservoir inlet to the outlet structure. The intent is to isolate and pass through reservoir inflow from the inlet while the reservoir is being excavated. Two 24 foot wide haul roads would then be constructed in order to remove excavated materials from the north and south ends of the reservoir. Excavation work will proceed from west to east. Once excavation is complete, the outlet valve will be closed and the reservoir will be allowed to gradually fill. This gradual filling should allow for the settling of solids that become suspended during pond refilling. Exposed soils will be mostly fine sands that will tend not to stay in suspension as compared to silts or clays.

E. Wetlands

None of the new management actions proposed in the ~~Draft~~ UMP Amendment will impact wetlands. Avoidance of wetland impacts in the areas of the groomer garage, the shuttle lane and the snowmaking reservoir was accomplished by field evaluation for the presence of wetlands and then designing these components to avoid wetlands. Periphery wetlands at the snowmaking reservoir will experience temporary hydrological alteration when the reservoir is emptied. This will not significantly impact wetlands since the effects will be temporary and since these wetlands have persisted when the reservoir has regularly been emptied in the past for inspection and maintenance purposes. Additional information regarding wetland avoidance can be found in UMP Section 6, Alternatives.

F. Climate and Air Quality

No new permanent sources of air emissions are proposed as part of this UMP.

Gore Mountain Ski Center has a current NYSDEC Air Quality Permit for which they are compliant.

Construction activities may result in localized increases in dust levels. However, areas of proposed construction that can take place after this UMP Amendment is adopted are located within the interior of the Intensive Use Areas, so no offsite areas will be affected.

Many ORDA venues exist within the boundaries of State protected lands and the impact of climate change on our environment is recognized. ORDA will be a leader in environmental stewardship with consistent commitment to sustainability, responsible development practices, and continuous communication with DEC, APA, and other regulatory agencies to ensure we are taking the appropriate measures.

G. Vegetation

Tree clearing associated with the new management actions includes 18.1 acres for downhill ski trails (9.4 on the current Intensive Use Area lands and 8.7 acres in the lands that could be added from the VMWF reclassification), 9.2 acres for trail widening, 3.1 acres for ski lifts, 0.8 acres for the groomer garage, and 6.5 acres for the shuttle lane. An area around maintenance and Lifts 9A and 9B previously approved in 1995 is no longer proposed. The 7.3 acres of clearing in this area is no longer proposed.

The numbers of trees proposed to be cut are summarized in the Table below.

Tree Cutting by Location and Community Type

Location	**Community**	**Action(s)**	**Acreage**	**Total Trees**
Gore Mtn IUA	B (mixed hardwood)	Burnt Ridge Trail (partial)	4.2	1,565
Gore Mtn IUA	E (mixed hardwood)	Burnt Ridge Trail (partial) + Trails 11A, 1N-P	6.9	4,447
Gore Mtn IUA	Q (pioneer hardwood)	Twister Widening	1.1	415
Gore Mtn IUA	P (northern hardwood)	Various	15.4	3315
			SUBTOTAL	9,742
Land Reclassif.	E (mixed hardwood)	Lift 12 and Trails 12	10.2	6,574
			TOTAL	16,316

A total of 9,742 trees are proposed to be cut on lands that are currently classified as Intensive Use Area. Approximately 25% of these will be 3-4”dbh and the remainder will be >4” dbh.

The area of Gore Mountain tree cutting is less than 1% of the size of the Intensive Use Area which fits within the capacity of the natural resources to absorb the impact.

There is no tree cutting proposed above 2,800 feet in elevation.

All tree cutting will be done in compliance with the DEC tree cutting policy LF-91-2.

No rare, threatened or endangered plant species will be impacted.

Only areas absolutely necessary for construction of ski trails, ski lifts, and other proposed improvements will be cleared of vegetation. All other areas will be maintained in a natural state.

Erosion control measures will be used on cleared areas with disturbed soils to avoid affecting adjacent vegetation by erosion or siltation. Erosion-control devices to be used will include filter fabric fences and staked straw bale filters.

Upon the completion of clearing of new ski trails and ski lift corridors, they will be seeded with grass mixtures to promote rapid revegetation. Areas disturbed for any other improvements will also be landscaped and revegetated as soon as practicable.

H. Wildlife

The actions proposed in this UMP are expected to have minimal impacts on wildlife. Proposed management actions are spread over the landscape of the existing developed ski trails and lifts. New management actions are proposed at low elevations on the mountain.

Trail widening projects, including the green trails, involve existing trails. This will result in the loss of some currently treed areas along the edge of existing ski trails and move most of the forest edge slightly outward.

Replacing and relocation the Sunway Lift will occur in the immediate vicinity of the existing lift.

The new lift 9B will parallel the existing Lower Sunway trail and much of it will occur in an already cleared area.

Enlarging the snowmaking reservoir will entail converting 1.6 acres of shoreline wooded areas to open water.

The new groomer garage will require some tree removal in an area that has existing work roads on two sides and an existing ski trail on a third side.

The NYSEF building expansion will occur in a grassy area immediately adjacent to the existing building.

The improvements associated with the dedicated shuttle lane take place in and around existing parking areas and the existing access road and will have minimal wildlife habitat impact.

I. Fisheries

The only proposed management action that involves aquatic resources is the expansion of the snowmaking reservoir. Significant adverse impacts to fisheries resources are not expected to occur as a result of reservoir drawdown for construction of the expansion. There may be some temporary short-term impacts to the fisheries resource within the reservoir proper, but these resources have developed and persisted while the reservoir is regularly drained for inspection and maintenance activities.

See the earlier section entitled Water Resources for a description of how the flow of clean inflow through the reservoir and downstream in Roaring Brook will be maintained in the snowmaking reservoir during the expansion process. The same section describes how the reservoir will be allowed to fill gradually after expansion is complete in order to allow for settling out of suspended solids within the reservoir before the reservoir begins to flow over the spillway.

J. Unique Areas

There are no unique biological areas present.

K. Critical Habitat

No new management actions are proposed to occur above 2,800 feet in elevation. There will no impact to the Adirondack Sub Alpine Forest Bird Conservation Area. Any carryover actions from previous UMPs that require construction activities above 2,800 feet in elevation will not commence prior to August 1 of any year.

L. Visual Resources

The actions proposed in this UMP are expected to have minimal visual impacts. The existing ski area is already visible from some area roadways. Proposed actions are spread across the landscape of the existing developed ski trails and lifts. New management actions are proposed at low elevations on the mountain.

Trail widening projects involve existing trails. For any trails that are currently visible from off site, the visual effect of minor widenings will be essentially imperceptible.

Replacing and relocating the Sunway Lift will occur in the immediate vicinity of the existing lift.

The new lift 9B will be low on the mountain and will parallel the existing Lower Sunway trail. The widening of the green trails will occur at low elevations not visible from off site.

The snowmaking reservoir is not visible from outside the Intensive Use Area.

The new groomer garage will be located in a low elevation wooded area. Although it will be visible on-site, it will not be visible from off site

The NYSEF building is not visible from off site.

The improvements associated with the dedicated shuttle lane take place in and around existing parking areas and the existing access road that are not visible from off site.

The suggested land reclassification itself would not result in any changes to the site.

M. Transportation

The proposed management actions do not include any significant expansion of mountain facilities, such as the addition of a new pod of ski trails, that would result in significant increases in peak hour traffic generation.

N. Community Services

The project primarily involves improvements to existing facilities designed to retain the existing skier base and increase the future number of skiers, hikers and bikers at Gore Mountain. It is anticipated that there will be a minor incremental increase in demand for community services such as fire, police, rescue, solid waste and health care due to the gradual increase in the number of visitors to the mountain. Many of the improvements are designed to build visitation during the off-seasons of spring, summer and fall thereby distributing the potential impacts over a 12 month period. The Ski Center presently makes very little demand on most services and the increase in such demand is anticipated to be small and can be accommodated by the service providers.

The North Creek Health Center was developed and the Warrensburg Health Center was recently expanded to respond to the growing need for services in local communities and businesses in the region. The potential long-term and incremental increase in visitors may increase the demand for medical care slightly and these facilities are capable of meeting any increased demand. The Glens Falls Hospital is also prepared to handle a minor increase in patients to the emergency room.

The extra revenue derived from EMS calls from skiers, hikers and mountain bikers helps offsets the year-round costs and therefore has a positive impact on the people who live and pay taxes in Johnsburg.

O. Local Land Use Plans

The actions in the UMP Amendment are consistent with local planning documents including the 2005 Johnsburg Comprehensive Plan and the 2007 Town of Johnsburg Zoning Law/LLUP that

serve to guide community planning. Both documents seek to forge stronger links between the Gore Mountain Ski Resort, the North Creek Ski Bowl, and the hamlet of North Creek, all of which are goals of Gore Mountain, ORDA and this UMP Amendment.

The UMP Amendment contains specific actions designed to encourage skiers to use both ski areas thereby increasing the overall number of skiers at both Gore Mountain and the Ski Bowl. ORDA has cooperated with North Creek in developing hiking, cross-country ski and mountain bike trails with the goal of connecting Ski Bowl Park and Gore Mountain lands.

The actions on State lands authorized by the UMP Amendment will not have any effects on adjoining or nearby private lands inconsistent with local land use controls such as the Johnsburg Zoning Law and the North Creek Action Plan that serve to guide community planning.

P. Historical and Archaeological Resources

Appendix 3 of the UMP Amendment contains a November 9, 2017 letter from NYS Office of Parks Recreation and Historic Preservation stating that there will be no impacts to archeological or historic resources.

VI. ALTERNATIVES ANALYSIS

Section 6 of the UMP contains an analysis of alternatives to the proposed management actions. Alternatives were examined for trail improvements, lift configurations, parking and circulation improvements, appurtenances (including the snowmaking reservoir) and the no-action alternative. Information is provided as to why the proposed management actions are the preferred alternatives from a ski area operations standpoint, while at the same the proposed actions have avoided significant adverse environmental impacts as compared to other alternatives considered.

Gore Mountain
Proposed Final 2017~~7~~8 Amendment to the 2002 Unit Management Plan and
~~Draft~~Final Generic Environmental Impact Statement

Executive Summary

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APSLMP – Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan
DGEIS – Draft Generic Environmental Impact Statement
FEAF – Full Environmental Assessment Form
FGEIS – Final Generic Environmental Impact Statement

LLUP – Locally Approved Land Use Program
Mgal – million gallons
NYSDEC – NYS Department of Environmental Conservation
ORDA _ NYS Olympic Regional Development Authority
SEQRA – (NY) State Environmental Quality Review Act
UMP – Unit Management Plan
VMWF – Vanderwhacker Mountain Wild Forest

SECTION I INTRODUCTION

A. Project Purpose

The Olympic Regional Development Authority (ORDA), in conjunction with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), is amending the 2002 Unit Management Plan (UMP) and Generic Environmental Impact Statement (GEIS) for Gore Mountain Ski Center in North Creek, Town of Johnsburg, Warren County, New York. This document serves as an amendment to that 2002 UMP. As an amendment to the 2002 UMP, this document will discuss changes to actions which have been previously approved, will include any new information relating to changes such that it satisfies State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) requirements, and will refer to the previously accepted and approved EIS for sections which have not changed as a result of this UMP Amendment. The document is organized so that it follows the sequence of the 2002 UMP.

ORDA's goals for Gore Mountain will be advanced through the actions contained in this UMP Amendment. Included in these goals are the following:

- modernize facilities in order to enhance the guest experience, improve skier safety, and increase local and regional economic benefits, while maintaining environmental quality,
- develop new summer and fall uses of the Ski Center to provide greater year-round use of the facility by the public, consistent with Article 14~~XIV~~ and the APSLMP,
- work closely with the North Creek community and Town of Johnsburg to provide information to visitors about the area and to cooperate in the establishment of a shuttle link between the Ski Center and North Creek and a physical ski link to Ski Bowl Park in order that public use may better help promote the economy of the area,
- improve environmental performance in all aspects of its operations and managing the area to allow for continued enjoyment by future generations,
- seek to increase the capacity of the ski area in concert with other modernization objectives in order to provide a higher quality skiing experience,
- improve infrastructure reliability in order to reduce the high frequency of breakdown, excessive staffing requirements and consequent financial drain,
- seek to reduce its operations and maintenance costs by replacing outdated and aged equipment,

- improve skier safety and enjoyment by widening certain trails and improving certain trail intersections, and

- improve trail selection and create a better balance among trails in order to appeal to a greater cross-section of the skiing market by increasing the number of trails for the beginning and advanced skier.

B. Brief Overview

The following lists the New Management Actions that are the subject of this UMP Amendment and that can be undertaken after the UMP Amendment is adopted. **Figures** 1 and 2, 2018~~7~~ UMP New Management Actions (North and South), show the locations of the actions.

Trail Construction and Trail Widening

- Construct a new trail at Burnt Ridge (11-0) that connects to the Base Lodge via the lower portion of Echo
- Widen the bottom of Echo as it turns toward the base area
- Widen some sections of Twister
- Widen Sunway and other green trails served by Lift 3
- Reestablish alpine skiing on a portion of Rabbit Pond Trail (can only occur after land reclassification takes place)

Lifts

- Add a new triple or quad chair (Lift 9B) from Northwoods Lodge up Lower Sunway to just past the bend in Lower Sunway

Vehicular Access and Parking

- Modify the 1995-approved shuttle lane separated from and independent of main traffic route and circulation route and parking

Buildings

- Expand the NYSEF building
- Reconfigure the 1995-approved maintenance complex to locate a groomer garage and fueling station adjacent to Sunway trail

Snowmaking

- Enlarge the snowmaking reservoir
- Install new 24 inch gravity water line from the snowmaking reservoir to the pump house

Mountain Biking

- Construct a single track bike trail loop for the Town trail at the top of Little Gore

Hiking

- Develop a hiking center at the Northwoods Lodge

Land Reclassification (Requires Separate APA Approval)

- Request land reclassification from Wild Forest to Intensive Use and From Intensive Use to Wilderness which could allow the historic Rabbit Pond Trail to be reclaimed and used winter and summer if authorized in a subsequent UMP.

(Note: The Adirondack Park Agency cannot find that a UMP Amendment proposing management actions on lands to be reclassified conforms to the APSLMP before the land is reclassified. First, the Agency must receive a request to reclassify, accompanied by a UMP for the proposed Intensive Use lands. The Agency must follow SEQRA regulations regarding public notice and comment and must hold hearings inside and outside the Adirondack Park on the request to reclassify, pursuant to the APSLMP. After notice, comment and hearings, the reclassification proposals would be presented to the Agency for a recommendation to the Governor for approval of the classification. The process culminates in the Governor's action on that recommendation. This UMP Amendment does not assume that a reclassification request will be approved and does not authorize any actions on lands to be reclassified, based on a proposed future classification. The actual request for reclassification and a UMP Amendment for those actions on the lands proposed for reclassification would be presented separately from this UMP Amendment. Discussion of actions on those lands in this UMP is conceptual only, and those actions cannot be authorized by this UMP Amendment.)

C. General Facility Description

1. Location Description

Gore Mountain Ski Center is located off NY Route 28, approximately two miles south of the Hamlet of North Creek, and 15 miles northwest of Warrensburg, in the Town of Johnsburg, Warren County, New York. A paved access road approximately one and one-half miles in length leads from County Route 29, Peaceful Valley Road, to the base lodge and parking areas. See **Figure** 3, "Regional Location Map," and **Figure** 4, "Site Location Map," for site location and regional travel routes. Gore Mountain Ski Center is State Land classified as "Intensive Use" under the APSLMP. The APSLMP identifies the specific boundaries of the ski center. The ski area's holdings encompass slopes of two mountains, Gore Mountain and Pete Gay Mountain, with approximately 3,755 acres of land. See **Figure** 5, "Intensive Use Area Boundary," for the delineation of the area boundaries.
Adjoining lands are a mix of State lands and private lands. Gore Mountain Ski Center is

bordered to the north by a portion of the Vanderwhacker Mountain Wild Forest. The Siamese Ponds Wilderness Area adjoins the Ski Center to the west.

Private land borders the ski area lands to the north, south, east and west. According to the Adirondack Park Land Use and Development Plan Map, lands to the north and west are classified as "Resource Management" and "Industrial," to the east as "Low Intensity Use," "Hamlet," and "Moderate Intensity Use," and to the south as "Moderate Intensity Use" and "Rural Use," as shown on **Figure** 6, "Surrounding Land Use Classification."

The industrial use lands are under the ownership of the Barton Mines Corporation. The corporation has been in operation, mining garnet for use as coated abrasives, since 1878. Operations by Barton Mines at Gore Mountain were ceased in the late 1970's, and the corporation is now actively mining at Ruby Mountain.

2. Property Description

The facility is classified as an "Intensive Use Area" under the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan. Gore Mountain targets winter sports enthusiasts for downhill and cross-country skiing. It includes 27.4 miles of constructed alpine ski trails, 14.6 miles of Nordic ski trails, 11 ski lifts, a ski school program, a ski racing program, three lodges, a nursery program and a cocktail lounge/restaurant. There are eight parking lots for cars and buses. See **Figure**s 7 and 8, Existing Conditions (South and North), and **Figures** 9 and 10, Existing and Approved Hiking and Biking Trails (South and North)

The summer and fall season program centers around hiking, mountain biking (including mountain bike racing), educational interpretive opportunities and nature-oriented activities. Gore Mountain hosts an annual fall festival. The gondola is operated as a tourist attraction year-round. Hunting, trapping and fishing are prohibited at the Gore Mountain Ski Center. Only non-consumptive use of wildlife resources is permitted on Ski Center lands. Current annual non-winter usage was approximately 8,500 people in 2016-2017 and has been as high as almost 13,000 people within the last 5 years.

D. History of the Ski Area

Gore Mountain Ski Center was built in the early 1960's and was first opened to the public in 1964. Early management was under the direction of the Bureau of Winter Recreation, Conservation Department (now known as the Department of Environmental Conservation). On April 1, 1984, management was delegated to the Olympic Regional Development Authority (ORDA) through an agreement with DEC, authorized by Chapter 99 of the Laws of 1984 (Article 8, Title 28, Section 2614, Public Authorities Law).
This agreement transferred to ORDA the use, operation, maintenance and management of the

ski area. DEC remains the statutory custodian of the state-owned ski area. Under the agreement, ORDA is to maintain the facility subject to DEC inspections; make capital improvements with DEC'S prior written approval; establish a sinking fund for capital improvements; continue the level of prior public recreation; comply with specified prior agreements; and cooperate with DEC in completion of a Unit Management Plan for the ski area.

In 1991 DEC and ORDA entered into a Memorandum of Understanding superseding a 1984 memorandum between the parties, establishing methods and procedures by which managerial requirements contained in the underlying DEC/ORDA management agreements are to be complied with, and setting forth requirements for the operation of ORDA facilities and detailing procedures on how Unit Management Plans for each of the ORDA facilities are to be implemented. In 2013 ORDA and DEC executed a Consolidation Agreement that incorporated the 1991 MOU. A copy of the Consolidation Agreement is in **Appendix** 2.

E. Description of UMP/GEIS Process

Section 816 of the Adirondack Park Agency Act directs the DEC to develop, in consultation with the Adirondack Park Agency (APA), Unit Management Plans (UMPs) for each unit of land under its jurisdiction classified in the SLMP. Pursuant to its enabling law and agreement with the DEC for the management of Gore Mountain, ORDA works with the DEC, in the consultation of the APA, to update and amend the Gore Mountain UMP. The original UMP for Gore Mountain was prepared in 1987. UMP Amendments for Gore Mountain were prepared 1995, 2002, and 2005.

Specific requirements pertaining to the development of UMPs for ORDA venues was specified in the March 9, 1991 DEC/ORDA MOU and were then expounded upon in the November 2013 DEC/ORDA Consolidation Agreement. Section 2 of the Consolidation Agreement (copy in **Appendix** 2) provides specifics regarding the preparation of UMPs for ORDA venues, including the following topics:

- UMP Content,
- SLMP Compliance,
- Consultation with NYSDEC Prior to and During UMP Preparation,
- Procedural Steps for preparation of Preliminary Draft UMPs, Public Review Draft UMPs, and Final UMP's,
- Consultation with APA,
- APA SLMP Consistency Review,
- ~~Commissioner Approval of UMPs, and~~
- APA Resolution on SLMP Conformance,and
- Commissioner Approval of UMPs~~, and~~
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The Generic Environmental Impact Statement (GEIS) included in this document in prepared in accordance with the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA, 6 NYCRR Part 617 and Implementing Regulations). The March 9, 1991 DEC/ORDA MOU, which is now incorporated as part of the November 2013 DEC/ORDA Consolidation Agreement states, "ORDA will normally serve as lead agency for State Environmental Quality Review (SEQR) and the Department and the Agency will participate in the SEQRA process as involved agencies."

ORDA, as lead agency, completed a SEQRA Full Environmental Assessment Form (FEAF) Parts 1, 2, and 3 (See **Appendix** 1). Based on the analysis in Part 3 of the FEAF, ORDA determined that the Project may result in one or more significant adverse impacts on the environment and that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) must be prepared to further assess the impacts and possible mitigation and to explore alternatives to avoid or reduce these impacts.

The SEQRA aspects of this document are presented as a Generic Environmental Impact Statement (GEIS). A Generic EIS may be used to assess the environmental effects of a sequence of actions contemplated by a single agency or an entire program or plan having wide application (6NYCRR 617.10(a)(2) and (4)). They differ from a site specific EIS in that it applies to a group of common and related activities which have similar or related impacts. It is the intent of this GEIS to provide sufficient, site-specific information for all aspects of the UMP. In conformance with SEQRA, these related actions are being considered in this DGEIS. No additional SEQRA analyses are anticipated to be required for any new management action in this UMP, provided that such actions are carried out in accordance with the recommendations of this document. Any conceptual actions will require additional review under SEQRA should they be pursued in the future.

A preliminary version of th~~is~~e UMP Draft Amendment/DGEIS was provided to NYSDEC and to the APA for their review on December 8, 2017. Comments from these agencies were received by ORDA, and ORDA revised the preliminary document accordingly. ORDA then declared th~~is~~e Public Review UMP Draft Amendment/DGEIS to be complete for public review on January 3, 2018. Notice of ORDA's acceptance of the EIS, establishment of the public comment period with a public hearing, and directions for accessing this document was published in the January 10, 2018 issue of the Environmental Notice Bulletin. The Public Draft of this document was presented to the NYS APA at their January 11, 2018 Agency meeting.

Th~~is~~e 2018~~7~~ UMP Draft Amendment/DGEIS ~~is~~was open for public comment until February 9, 2018 including a SEQRA public hearing that was held at ~~scheduled for~~ 7:00 PM on January 24, 2018 at the Gore Mountain Base Lodge. Following the completion of the public comment period, ORDA, in consultation with NYSDEC and in cooperation with the APA, prepared this FGEIS in accordance with the requirements of SEQRA. Responses were prepared to comments received at the public hearing and to written comments submitted during the public comment

period. A transcript of the public hearing, copies of written comments and responses to comments are included in this FGEIS. Also included in this FGEIS is an errata section that summarizes the changes that were made to the DGEIS when preparing this FGEIS.

~~Notice of ORDA's acceptance of the EIS, establishment of the public comment period with a public hearing, and directions for accessing this document was published in the January 10, 2018 issue of the Environmental Notice Bulletin.~~

~~This Public Draft UMP Draft Amendment/DGEIS is available online at http://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/41866.html . Hard copies of the document are available at the following offices: ORDA in Lake Placid, DEC regional office in Warrensburg, and DEC central office (Lands and Forests) in Albany.~~

~~Following the completion of the public comment period, ORDA, in consultation with NYSDEC and in cooperation with the APA, will proceed with the preparation of the FGEIS in accordance with the requirements of SEQRA.~~

This proposed final ~~Public Draft~~ UMP ~~Draft~~ Amendment/~~D~~FGEIS is available online at http://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/41866.html . Hard copies of the document are available at ~~the following offices:~~ ORDA offices in Lake Placid~~, DEC regional office in Warrensburg, and DEC central office (Lands and Forests) in Albany~~ at and Johnsburg Town Hall. CD copies are available upon request.

This proposed final UMP Amendment/FGEIS will be presented to the APA at their March 8, 2018 meeting for a first reading.

F. Status of Previous UMP Updates and Amendments

See **Figure** 7, Existing Conditions (South) and **Figure** 8, Existing Conditions (North). These are the facilities that currently exist on the Gore Mountain Intensive Use Area.

There are a number of management actions that were approved for Gore Mountain in earlier UMPs that have yet to be constructed. These actions remain in effect as approved and continue to be proposed. See **Figure** 11, Previously Approved Actions, Not Yet Constructed (South) and **Figure** 12, Previously Approved Actions, Not Yet Constructed (North).

Figures 1 and 2 referenced previously show the new management actions that are proposed in this 2018~~7~~ ~~Draft~~ UMP Amendment.

Together, the previously approved, but not yet constructed actions, combined with the 2018~~7~~ new management actions, constitute the proposed Master Plan for Gore Mountain. Master

Plans for the southern part of the Intensive Use Area, the base area, and the northern part of the Intensive Use Area are shown on **Figures** 13, 14 and 15 respectively.

Table 1 below indicates which management actions approved in previous UMPs are completed, partially completed, pending construction, modified in this 2018~~7~~ UMP Amendment, or are abandoned altogether.

Table 1
2018~~7~~ UMP Amendment and Status of 2005 UMP Actions
(with carry over 1987, 1995, and 2002-2007) Actions

Item #	Facility		Management Action / Improvements	Current Status				
1	**Ski Trails**							
	Trail # (By Pod)	Trail Name						
	1F	Twister	Build on previously approved widening efforts and widen portions less than 120' wide to 120' width to achieve consistent width along entire trail.	New Management Action, 2018~~7~~ UMP amendment				
	11A, 1N-P	Echo	Widen bottom to 120' to accommodate new trail connection and existing ski racing on Echo	New Management Action, 2018~~7~~ UMP amendment				
	1C (1C-1A), 3A	Sunway	Widen and re-grade bottom portion to 120' width for use as primary beginner trail accessed by new Lift 9B	New Management Action, 2018~~7~~ UMP amendment				
	3B	Ward Hill	Widen to 120' width and grade for increased ski ability / safety for beginner-intermediate skier	New Management Action, 2018~~7~~ UMP amendment				
	3C-UP	Cutoff	Widen to avg. 100' width and grade for increased ski ability / safety for beginner-intermediate skier	New Management Action, 2018~~7~~ UMP amendment				
	3C-LOW	Little Dipper	Widen to avg. 100' width and grade for increased ski ability / safety for beginner-intermediate skier	New Management Action, 2018~~7~~ UMP amendment				
	3I	Otter Slide	Widen to 120' width to alleviate congestion at intersection at Sunway and accommodate new Lift 3 terminal location.	New Management Action, 2018~~7~~ UMP amendment				
	9A		Abandon clearing proposed in 1995 but never undertaken	New Management Action, 2018~~7~~ UMP amendment				
	11-O	New Trail	New downhill trail 11-O on Burnt Ridge, as additional intermediate trail connection from Burnt Ridge to Base Area	New Management Action, 2018~~7~~ UMP amendment				
	12L	New Trail	New Downhill Trail from top of New Lift 12, connecting to Ski Bowl Trails and Burnt Ridge	Ski Bowl				
	12M	New Trail	New Downhill Trail from top of New Lift 12, connecting to Ski Bowl Trails	Ski Bowl				
	12I-A	New Trail	New Downhill Trail from top of New Lift 12, providing access to Rabbit Pond area, Ski Bowl Trails	Ski Bowl				
	Previously Approved Action - Ski Trail Construction			**Action Approved In**	**Action Completed**	**Partially Completed (% complete)**	**Approved, Not Yet Started**	**Action Abandoned**
	1N-O			1995			X	
	1N-P	Echo (Lower)		1995	X			
	2N-L			1995			X	
	6N-O			1995			X	
	7N-P			1995			X	
	9A Upper			1995			X	
	9B			1995			X	
	10B-UPPER			1995				X (05)
	10D			1995				X (05)
	10F			1995			X	
	10G Lower			1995				X (05)
	10H			1995			X	
	11A	Echo (Upper)		2002	X			
	11B-UPPER	Hedges		2002	X			
	11B Lower			2002			X	
	11C			2002				X (05)

Item #	Facility		Management Action / Improvements	Current Status				
	11D			2002				X (05)
	11E			2002				X (05)
	11F			2002				X (05)
	11G			2002			X	
	11M			2002			X	
	11L			2005			X	
	11I			2005			X	
	11J			2005			X	
	11K	Sagamore		2005	X			
	11N	Eagle's Nest Crossover		2005	X			
	12A	Peaceful Valley (Lower)		2005	X			
	12B	The Oak Ridge Trail		2002	X			
	12C	Peaceful Valley (Upper)		2005	X			
	12D	Moxham		2002	X			
	12E			2002			X	
	12F	46ER		2005	X			
	12G Upper			2005			X	
	12G Lower	Hudson		2005	X			
	12H			2005			X	
	12I			2005			X	
	12J			2005			X	
	12K			2002				X (05)
	12L			2002				X (05)
	12M			2002				X (05)
	15A			2002				X (05)
	C5			1995				X (05)
	C7	Ruby Run		2005	X			
	Previously Approved Action - Ski Trail Widening			**Action Approved In**	**Action Completed**	**Partially Completed (% complete)**	**Approved, Not Yet Started**	**Action Abandoned**
	1H	1A		1995			X	
	1E	2B		2002			X	
	3F, 3H	3B		1995,2002			X	
	9A Lower	Bear Cub Run		1995		X		X(20187)
	7A	Chatiemac		1987		5		
	6B-UP, 2K	Cloud		1987,1995		50		
	7B	Hawkeye		1987,2002			X	
	7F	Headwaters		1987,2002			X	
	3G	Jamboree		2002			X	
	3C-LOW	Little Dipper		1995,2002			X	
	6G	Lower Darby		1995			X	
	6F	Lower Steilhang		1995			X	
	3A	Lower Sunway		87,95,02			X	
	2D	North Star		1995			X	
	6E, 7N-O	Open Pit		2002			X	
	2E UP, LOW	Pete Gay		1995,2002		5		
	2C	Powder Pass		1995			X	
	1B	Quicksilver		1987			X	
	1C (1A-1D), 1D	Showcase		1987,2002		5		
	1K	Showoff		1995			X	
	2B, 2I	Sleeping Bear		1987			X	
	1C (1C-1A), 1A	Sunway		87,95,02		15		
	2A	Tahawus		1995			X	
	C1	Tannery		1995	X			
	1C (FROM 1NR)	The Arena		2002			X	
	7H	The Glen		1987			X	
	2F (2J-2E)	The Loop		2002			X	
	3E	Twin Fawns		2002			X	
	1F	Twister		1995	X			
	10C-UP	Uncas		2002			X	
	6D	Upper Darby		1995			X	
	1G	Upper Sleighride		1995			X	
	6C	Upper Steilhang		1987			X	
	2F (TO 2J)	Upper Wood In		2002			X	
	1N-Q-1NR, 1N-R	Wildair		2002			X	
	6J	Wood Lot North		1995			X	
	6B-LOW(FROM 6K)	Wood Lot South		1987			X	
2	**Ski Lifts**							
	Lift 9b	New Lift	Add new triple or quad chair (Lift 9B) from Northwoods Lodge up Lower Sunway to just past the bend in Lower Sunway.	New Management Action, 20187 UMP amendment				

Item #	Facility		Management Action / Improvements	Current Status				
	Lift 12	Hudson Chair	Replace, re-align and extend Lift 12 to location north of existing top terminal, to enhance access to Rabbit Pond area for both Winter and Summer recreation	Ski Bowl				
	Previously Approved Action - Lift Installation			**Action Approved In**	**Action Completed**	**Partially Completed (% complete)**	**Approved, Not Yet Started**	**Action Abandoned**
	Lift 1 (Replace)	Adirondack Express II		1987	X			
	Lift 3 (Re-Locate)	Sunway Chair		2002			X	
	Lift 4 (Relocate)	J-Bar		2002			X	
	Lift 6 (Extend)	High Peaks Chair		2002			X	
	Lift 9b	Beginner Triple		2002			X	
	Lift 9c	Surface-Magic Carpet		2002	X			
	Lift 9d	Surface-Magic Carpet		2002	X			
	Lift 11	Burnt Ridge Quad		2005	X			
	Lift 12	Hudson Chair	Ski Bowl	2002	X			
	Lift 13	Village Chair	Ski Bowl	2002	X			
	Lift 14	Base to Base Gondola	UA and Ski Bowl	2005			X	
3	**Buildings**							
	NYSEF Building		Expand NYSEF building	New Management Action, 2018~~7~~ UMP amendment				
	Base Lodge		Incorporate Hiking center into Main Lodge	New Management Action, 2018~~7~~ UMP amendment				
	Previously Approved Actions			**Action Approved In**	**Action Completed**	**Partially Completed (% complete)**	**Approved, Not Yet Started**	**Action Abandoned**
	Base Lodge and Northwoods Lodge (Former Gondola Building)		Renovation/Expansion	1995		55%		
	Saddle Lodge		Renovation/Expansion/Ski Patrol	1995	X			
	Bear Mtn. Lodge		Build Lodge	1995			X	
			Wastewater Line to Saddle Lodge	1995			X	
	NYSEF Building		Addition/Expansion	2005	X			
	Summit Lodge		Build Summit Lodge	1987		X		
	Sand Shed		Build Sand Shed in existing parking lot	2002				**X (2005)**
4	**Snowmaking**							
	North Creek Snowmaking Reservoir		Increase reservoir capacity to improve snowmaking efficiency and operational flexibility.	New Management Action, 2018~~7~~ UMP amendment				
	Overall Snowmaking Capacity		Permit withdrawal Capacity	Previously Approved Action. 4,400 GPM completed, 6,800 GPM Approved				
	Distribution Lines		Install Distribution Lines on New Trails	Previously Approved Action, ongoing				
	Diesel Air Compressors		Create area for Diesel Air compressors with Fuel	Previously Approved Action, partially completed.				
5	**Maintenance Facility**							
	Groomer Garage		Re-Configure approved maintenance complex to locate new groomer garage and fueling station adjacent to existing ski trail, to improve efficiency and functionality of operations	New Management Action, 2018~~7~~ UMP				
	General Buildings		Relocate Buildings, renovate, add garages	Approved in 1995, not yet constructed. (Reconfiguration is 2018~~7~~ Management Action)				
	Fuel		Install additional fuel storage	Approved in 1995, partially completed				
6	**Parking / Circulation**							
	Shuttle Lane		Update 1995-approved shuttle lane to conform to current conditions, and provide service separated from and independent of primary traffic circulation	New Management Action, 2018~~7~~ UMP amendment				
	General Parking		Construct New Lots	Action approved in 1995, 50% completed				
	Drop Off Area		Reconfigure entry lane and drop off area	Action approved in 1995, 50% completed				
	Shuttle Lane		Build independent Shuttle Lane	Action approved in 1995, not yet constructed (Reconfiguration is 2018~~7~~ Actior				
	Bus Parking Lot		Built new Bus Lot	Conceptual Action in 2005				
7	**Backcountry Trail Network**							
	Hiking and X/C Ski Trails		Trail Construction	Approved in 1995, partially completed.				

Item #	Facility		Management Action / Improvements	Current Status				
8	Miscellaneous							
	Land Use Reclassification		Suggested land reclassification involving Gore Mountain IUA, Vanderwhacker Mtn. WF and Siamese Ponds Wilderness Area which could allow the historic Rabbit Pond trail to be reclaimed and used winter and summer	New Management Action, 2018~~7~~ UMP amendment				
	Interpretive Systems		Interpretive Systems installed	Approved, 25% completed				
	Sand Pit Reclamation		Re-claim sand pit area	Approved, partially completed				

Table 1A that follows is derived from Table 1 above, and provides the amounts of ski trails at Gore Mountain that (1) currently exist, (2) were previously approved but have not yet been constructed, and (3) are proposed in this UMP Amendment. Locations of trails are shown on **Figures** 13 and 15.

Table 1A
Ski Trails at Gore Mountain

Trail Length Data				
	Trail Pod #	**Trail Name**	**Trail Length on Intensive Use Area Lands**	**Trail Length on Town Lands**
Existing Trails				
	1H	1A	825	0
	1E	2B	357	0
	3F	3B	1952	0
	12F	46ER	0	3260
	9A Lower	Bear Cub Run	608	0
	WORKRD	Cedar's Traverse	3514	0
	7A	Chatiemac	3119	0
	6B-UP, 2K	Cloud	3486	0
	N/A	Crystal	157	0
	3C-UP	Cutoff	922	0
	7E	Dell	344	0
	7N-Q(b)	Double Barrel (Looker's Right)	780	0
	11N	Eagle's Nest Crossover	4082	0
	11A, 1N-P	Echo	5735	0
	C4	Farview	965	0
	10G-Upper, C6	Foxlair	1870	0
	7B	Hawkeye	1939	0
	7F	Headwaters	2740	0
	11B-UP, M8	Hedges	1489	0

Trail Length Data				
	Trail Pod #	**Trail Name**	**Trail Length on Intensive Use Area Lands**	**Trail Length on Town Lands**
	12G Lower	Hudson	0	2403
	6H	Hullabloo	1173	0
	3G	Jamboree	1619	0
	N/A	Jibland	318	0
	N/A	Jug Handle	434	0
	7N-M	Lies	1109	0
	6K	Little Cloud	364	0
	3C-LOW	Little Dipper	993	0
	N/A	Little Gore Crossover	0	770
	2K	Lower Cloud Traverse	655	0
	6G	Lower Darby	1019	0
	1C (1D-1NR)	Lower Sleighride	1817	0
	6F	Lower Steilhang	1246	0
	3A	Lower Sunway	3769	0
	10C-LOW	Lower Uncus	794	0
	2J-UP	Lower Wood In Traverse	1115	0
	M2	Mica	444	0
	12D	Moxham	368	2509
	2D	North Star	1803	0
	6E, 7N-O	Open Pit	972	0
	3I	Otter Slide	407	0
	12C, 12A	Peaceful Valley	3173	2837
	2E UP, LOW	Pete Gay	3976	0
	10A, 10B LOW	Pine Knot	2455	0
	N/A	Pipeline Traverse	5419	0
	1C (1NR-3F)	Pot Luck	723	0
	2C	Powder Pass	3580	0
	1B	Quicksilver	2036	0
	C7	Ruby Run	2563	0
	11K	Sagamore	6037	0
	6B-LOW (2K-6K)	Santanoni	133	47
	1C (1A-1D), 1D	Showcase	5928	22
	1K	Showoff	188	0
	2B, 2I	Sleeping Bear	2796	0

Trail Length Data				
	Trail Pod #	**Trail Name**	**Trail Length on Intensive Use Area Lands**	**Trail Length on Town Lands**
	N/A	Starting Gate	359	0
	1C (1C-1A), 1A	Sunway	5047	0
	2A	Tahawus	4184	0
	C1	Tannery	2768	0
	1C (FROM 1NR)	The Arena	991	0
	7H	The Glen	433	0
	N/A	The Gully	730	0
	2F (2J-2E)	The Loop	850	0
	12B	The Oak Ridge Trail	1984	0
	N/A	The Peace Pipe	918	0
	7N-L	The Rumor	1260	0
	10E	Topridge	3900	0
	1K	Tower 6	118	0
	3E	Twin Fawns	1094	0
	1F	Twister	6603	0
	N/A	Twister's Little Sister	121	0
	10C-UP	Uncas	1833	0
	12c	Eagles Nest Bridge	620	0
	6D	Upper Darby	808	0
	1G	Upper Sleighride	1727	0
	6C	Upper Steilhang	1739	0
	2F (TO 2J)	Upper Wood In	973	0
	13A	Village Slopes	0	1260
	3B	Ward Hill	874	0
	1N-Q-1NR, 1N-R	Wildair	4980	0
	6J	Wood Lot North	924	0
	6B-LOW(FROM 6K)	Wood Lot South	1163	0
	2J (FROM 6B)	Wood Out	2340	0
	M1	Woodchuck	1163	0
		Totals (LF)	**144,814**	**13,108**
		Totals (MILAGE)	**27.43**	**2.48**

Trail Length Data				
	Trail Pod #	**Trail Name**	**Trail Length on Intensive Use Area Lands**	**Trail Length on Town Lands**
Trails Approved, Not Yet Constructed				
	1N-O	Approved, not yet constructed	2,850	0
	2N-L	Approved, not yet constructed	600	0
	6N-O	Approved, not yet constructed	362	0
	7N-P	Approved, not yet constructed	630	0
	9A Upper	Approved, not yet constructed	925	0
	9B	Approved, not yet constructed	1,250	0
	10F	Approved, not yet constructed	2,345	0
	10H	Approved, not yet constructed	3,848	0
	11B Lower	Approved, not yet constructed	1,480	0
	11G	Approved, not yet constructed	1,720	0
	11M	Approved, not yet constructed	1,925	0
	11L	Approved, not yet constructed	4,095	0
	11I	Approved, not yet constructed	2,495	0
	11J	Approved, not yet constructed	4,085	0
	12E	Approved, not yet constructed	0	1,605
	12G Upper	Approved, not yet constructed	0	1,580
	12H	Approved, not yet constructed	0	3,067
	12I	Approved, not yet constructed	0	6,410
	12J	Approved, not yet constructed	0	2,140
		Totals (LF)	**29,150**	**14,802**
		Totals (MILAGE)	**5.42**	**2.80**
Trails Proposed in 2018~~7~~ UMP				
	11O	Proposed	3,415	0
	12L	Proposed	1,210	0
	12M	Proposed	340	1,035
	12I-A	Proposed	1,520	1,223
	12J-A	Proposed	100	1,235
	12N	Proposed	0	600
	12O	Proposed	305	280
		Totals (LF)	**6,890**	**4,373**
		Totals (MILAGE)	**1.30**	**0.83**

Summary of Totals	***(In Miles)***
Total Existing Trails on Intensive Use Lands	27.43
Total Approved/Not Constructed Trails on Intensive Use Lands	5.42
Total Existing and Approved Trails on Intensive Use (IU) Lands	***32.85***
Total Proposed Trails on Intensive Use Lands	1.30
Total Existing/Approved and Proposed Trails on IU Lands	***34.15***
Constitutional Trail Mileage Limit	40.00
Total Allowable Trail Mileage Remaining	***5.85***
Total Existing/Approved and Proposed Trails on IU Lands	34.15
Total Existing Glades on IU Lands	4.60
Total Existing/Approved and Proposed Trails and Glades	***38.75***

SECTION II INVENTORY OF EXISTING RESOURCES, FACILITIES, SYSTEMS AND USE

A. Inventory of Natural Resources

1. Physical Resources

a. Geology

Gore Mountain Ski Center is within the Adirondack Upland physiographic province which consists of an ancient domed Pre-Cambrian erosion surface, with erosional remnants forming the higher, more rugged features such as The High Peaks. Ancient crystalline metamorphic rocks similar to those of the Canadian Shield in Canada prevail. Specifically, the bedrock at the Ski Center is composed of granitic and quartz syenitic gneiss which contains varying amounts of such minerals as hornblende, pyroxene, garnet and micas. Intense glacial scour has removed most of the glacial soil and, in general, smoothed the land surface.

The landform that is Gore Mountain, including the former Barton garnet mine that is located on the north side of the mountain, is considered a unique geologic feature because of the nearby garnet deposits (http://www.dec.ny.gov/permits/53858.html).

b. Soils

Soils on the site are shown on **Figure** 16, "Soils Map". Soils mapping was obtained from the US National Resources Conservation Service's Soil Survey Geographical Data Base (SSURGO).

The following soils are present within the Intensive Use Area.

Bice very bouldery fine sandy loam – these are deep, well drained soils on hillsides, hill crests and narrow valley sides.

Hermon very bouldery fine sandy loam – these are very deep, well drained and somewhat excessively drained soils on hilltops, hill sides, ridges and mountainsides.

Hermon-Lyman Rock outcrop complex – this complex is a mix of the previously described Hermon soils with the shallow and somewhat excessively drained Lyman soils. This complex is found on mountain sides and hilltops where the landscape is influenced by underlying bedrock. Bedrock outcrops typically make up 15%. This series is the most prevalent soil type in the Intensive Use Area.

Hinckley cobbly sandy loam – these a gently sloping to sloping, deep, excessively drained soils on terraces and benches in valleys.

Hinckley-Plainfield complex – the Plainfield series is in complex with the Hinckley series described above, and consist of deep, excessively drained sandy and gravelly soils. This complex occurs along the Gore Mountain access road from Peaceful Valley Road.

Lyman – Rock outcrop complex – these are shallow and somewhat excessively drained Lyman soils with 30 percent rock outcrop. These soils occur on mountain tops in the Intensive Use Area.

Marlow very bouldery fine sandy loam – these are deep well drained soils on hillsides, crests of hills and mountainsides. A large portion of the lower elevations of the Intensive Use Area contain Marlow soils.

Plainfield loamy sand – see the description of the Hinckley-Plainfield complex above for a description of the Plainfield soils.

Wareham loamy sand – two very small areas of this series are located in the southwest corner of the Intensive Use Area. These are nearly level, deep, and somewhat poorly drained soils.

Two of the important soil characteristics that need to be given consideration are the susceptibility of soils to erosion and the depth to bedrock in the soils.

Soil erodibility is a function of soil detachment potential and the amount of runoff generated from a soil. Clays tend to have low detachment potentials and coarse sands tend to have low runoff potential. Both of these soil types with have a low erodibility which is expressed numerically as soil K factors. Generally speaking, low erosion potential soils have K values that range from 0.05 to 0.2. Soils with moderate erosion potential generally have K factors that range from 0.25 to 0.4, while high erosion potential soils have K factor values higher than 0.4. The following provides the list of soils in the Intensive Use Areas and their K values.

Soil Series	**Erosion Factor (K)**
Bice	0.20-0.24
Hermon	0.10
Hinchley	0.17
Lyman	0.20-0.32
Marlow	0.20-0.32
Plainfield	0.15-0.17
Wareham	0.10-0.17

Soils in the Intensive Use Area generally have low erosion potentials with the Lyman and Marlow series being in the low-moderate range of erodibility.

Construction activities that require excavation in areas of soils with shallow depth to bedrock can require blasting. Generally speaking, the soils at lower elevation in the Intensive Use Area

have deeper bedrock. The following are the depths at which bedrock is typically present in the soils at Gore Mountain.

Soil Series	**Depth to Bedrock (inches)**
Bice very bouldery fine sandy loam	>72
Hermon very bouldery fine sandy loam	>60
Hermon-Lyman-Rock outcrop complex	0 - >60
Hinckley cobbly sandy loam	>65
Hinckley-Plainfield complex	>60
Lyman-Rock outcrop complex	0 - 17
Marlow very bouldery fine sandy loam	>65
Plainfield loamy sand	>60
Wareham loamy sand	>60

c. Topography and Slope

As shown on **Figure** 17, "Topography," topography on the site ranges from approximately 1100 to 3500 feet above mean sea level (MSL).

The peak of Gore Mountain is situated at an elevation of 3583 feet MSL, Bear Mountain is at 3218 feet MSL and Pete Gay Mountain is at 3130 feet MSL. The base lodge is located at 1500 feet MSL. The Slope Map, **Figure** 18, was developed from site topography and slope classes by percentage are provided below:

Slope Class	% of Site
0- 10%	5.4
10-15%	11.9
15-25%	33.7
25-30%	16.5
30-35%	10.4
35-40%	7.1
40-45%	4.9
45-60%	6.7
60-85%	2.7
>85%	0.4

d. Water Resources

See **Figure** 19, Surface Water and Wetland Resources.

There are three streams on the site which flow to the east and are tributaries to North Creek. Straight Brook(941-1257) drains the southwest part of the Intensive Use Area. Roaring Brook

(943-1253 and 1254) drains the northern part of the Intensive Use Area. The North Creek Reservoir, now the snowmaking reservoir for Gore Mountain, was formed by damming Roaring Brook. The unnamed brook which is crossed by the ski center entry road is tributary 2 of North Creek and drains the central portion of the Intensive Use Area.

Rabbit Pond (H-P527b) is currently located on the part of the Vanderwhacker Mountain Wild Forest (VMWF) to the north of the Intensive Use Area. A land reclassification that would add the portion of the VMWF containing Rabbit Pond to the Intensive Use Area is suggested in this ~~draft~~ UMP/GEIS. According to the 2005 UMP for the VMWF, Rabbit Pond is 0.4 acre in size.

A water quality monitoring summary was prepared on behalf of ORDA in March 2007, evaluating data collected during the period 1995 – 2006. The data were collected with the intent of assessing changes in water quality "as it relates to construction activities and changes in vegetation cover types following construction". The conclusions of that report are restated in pertinent part below:

- Based on the analysis of storm-event conductivity data from the two streams, construction activities at Gore Mountain for the period analyzed do not appear to be affecting local surface water quality.
- The location of construction activities and their proximity to surface water resources does not appear to be a factor affecting water quality in the streams that drain Gore Mountain.
- Consideration should be given to increasing the number of baseline samples that are taken and analyzed for conductivity and phosphorus levels. This would provide a more robust data set which may be helpful in elucidating any trends in water quality.

e. Wetlands

The official New York State wetland map for this area and aerial photographs were used to locate potential wetlands on the ski center property. These areas were then visited in the field and their approximate boundaries were drawn on aerial photographs. The boundaries were then transferred to a topographic map of the site to develop **Figure** 19, "Surface Water and Wetland Resources," which shows the locations of wetlands, ponds, streams, and the main drainage courses on the ski area property. A map of the wetland locations at a scale of 1 inch = 400 feet is incorporated by reference and is available from the Lead Agency. There are several scattered, small boggy wetlands on Gore Mountain that range in size from less than an acre to approximately 5 acres. These are found in flat pocket areas that hold water flowing from steep slopes above. Water is at or near the surface in these areas during most of the year. Predominant vegetation consists of sedges, peat moss, alders, red maple, or cedar.

The large wetland just above the snowmaking reservoir had previous beaver activity. The earlier flooding and standing water in the wetland is no longer present since the abandoned

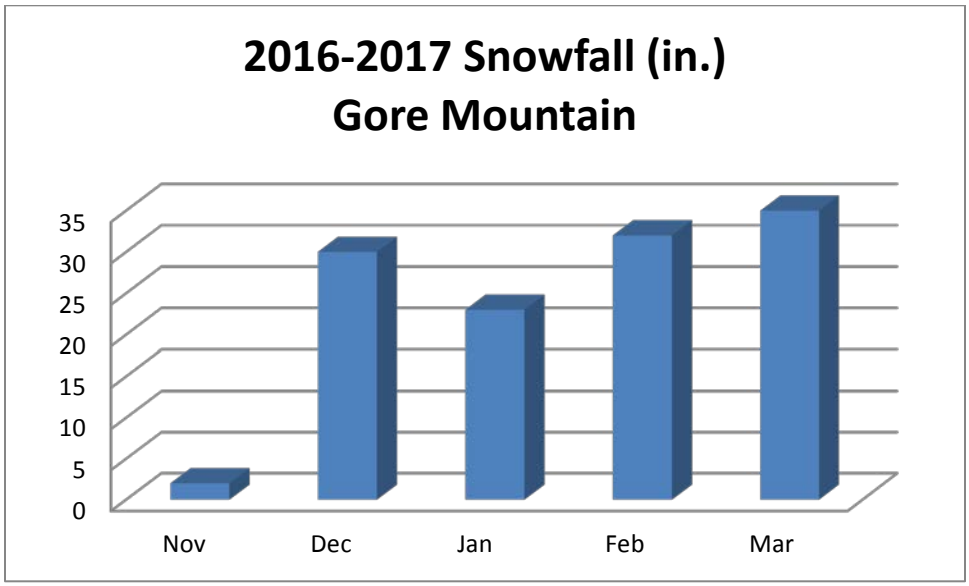
beaver dam has naturally breached over time. The two wetlands on the upper mountain are intermittent drainageways that are shrub swamps typical of hillside drainages. Alders, balsam fir and viburnums are predominant. In terms of the functions and benefits that they provide, wetlands on the mountain serve to retain and slow down runoff flowing from higher elevations. They also may serve as habitats for certain species of wildlife, particularly some species of amphibians and reptiles, which may not be able to use the surrounding upland habitats for their breeding or foraging activities. The wetlands on the ski center were field checked by APA personnel during the preparation of the 1995 UMP.

f. Climate and Air Quality

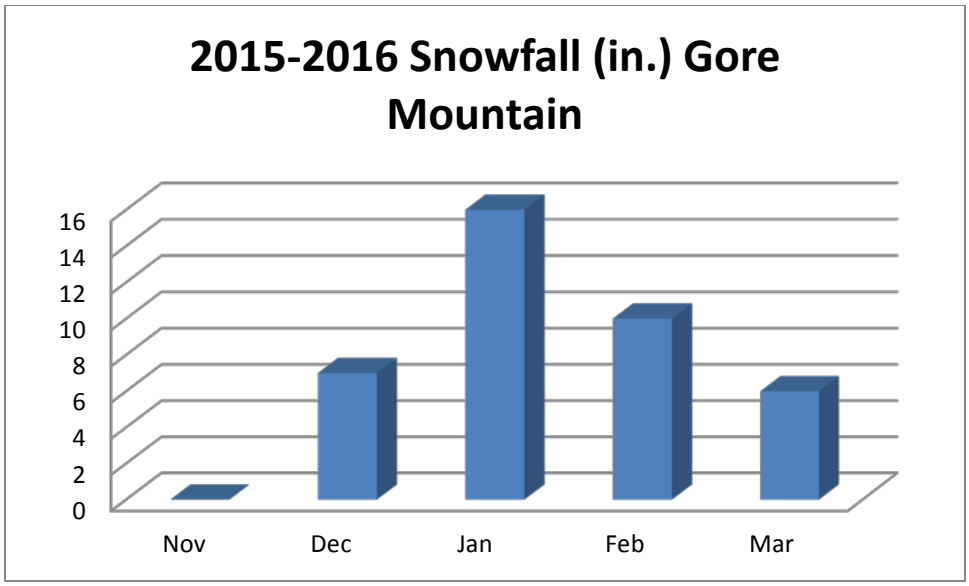
Climate-Snowfall

For the past five November to March ski seasons Gore Mountain received an average of 128.4 inches of snowfall. Each of the last five seasons is presented below. (Source: https://www.onthesnow.com/new-york/gore-mountain/historical-snowfall.html?&y=2009)

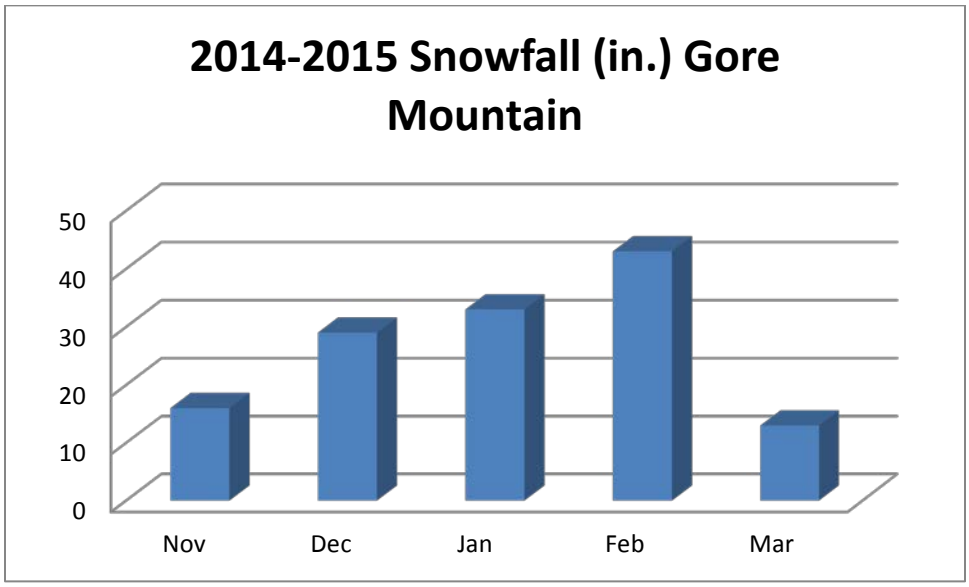
Gore Mountain received 122 inches of snowfall in the 2016-2017 ski season. Snowfall amounts were spread fairly evenly from December to March. The first snowfall of the season was 2 inches that fell on November 24.



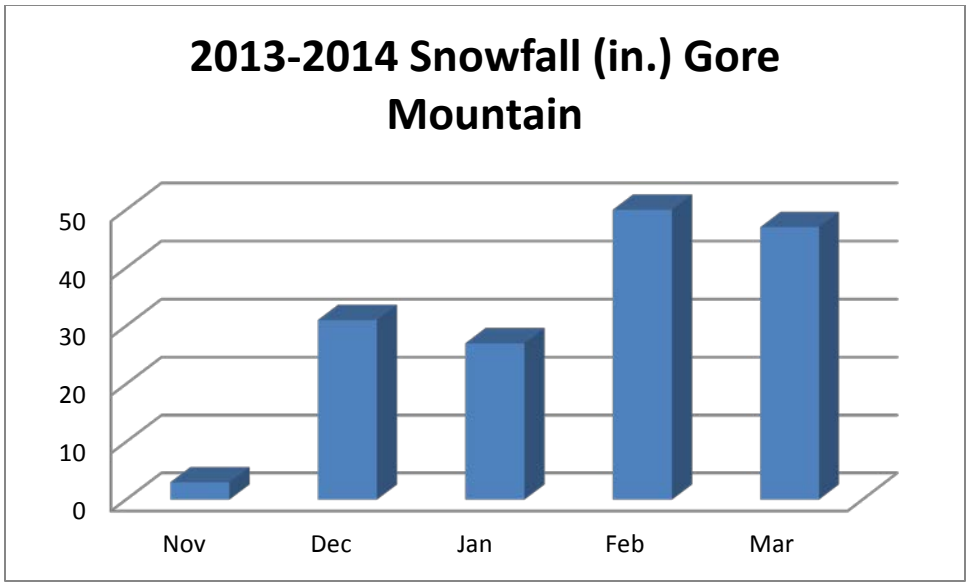
The 2015 to 2016 ski season in the northeast was characterized by many as “the winter that wasn’t”. Gore Mountain received a total of 39 inches all ski season. The first snowfall of the season, 7 inches, did not fall until December 19. Attendance was down that ski season by 30% compare to the average of the other 4 of the last 5 seasons.



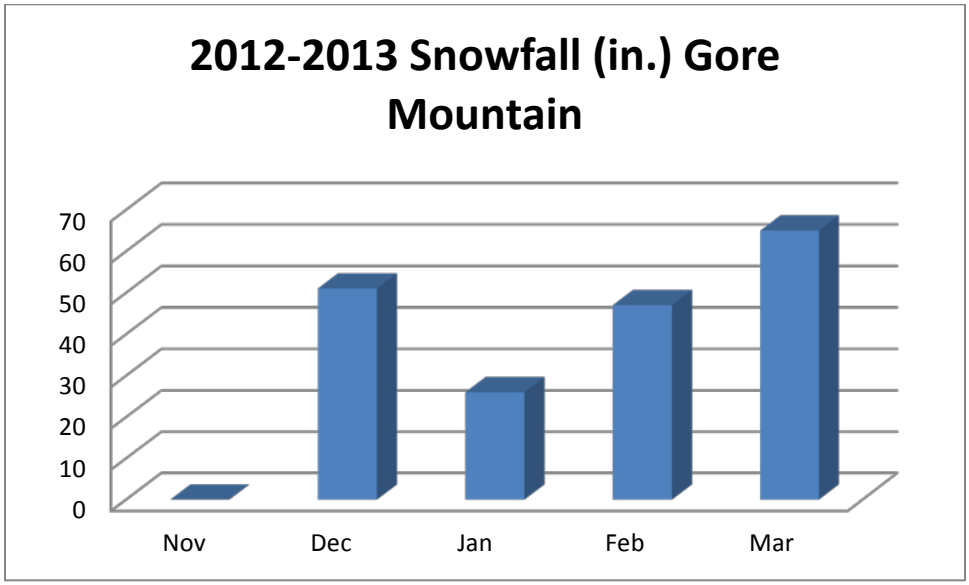
The 2014-2015 ski season had a total of 134 inches of snowfall with the first snowfall occurring on November 23.



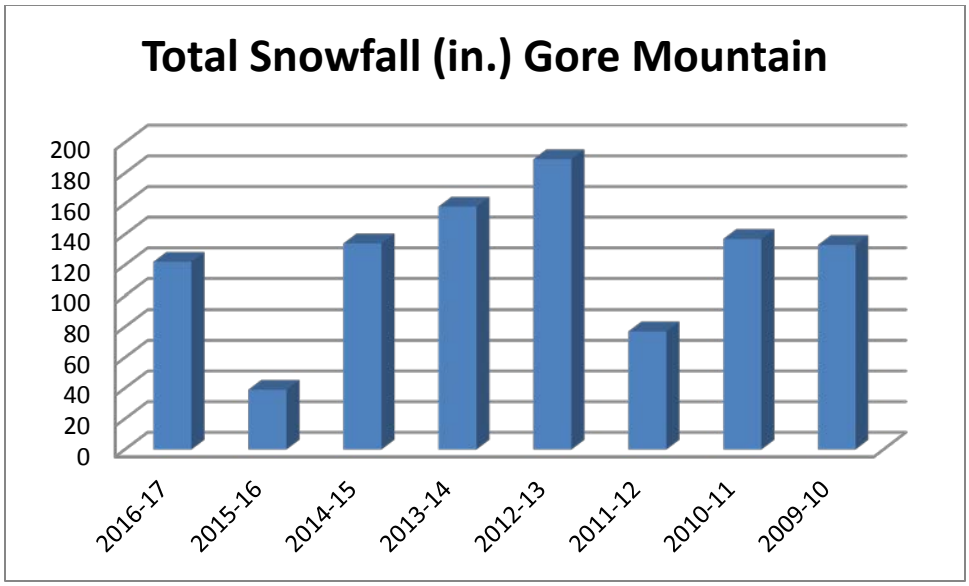
The 2013-2014 ski season saw a total of 158 inches of natural snowfall at Gore Mountain with the first snowfall occurring on November 23.



The highest ski season snowfall for the past 5 seasons occurred in 2012-2013 when Gore Mountain received 189 inches of total snowfall.



Just looking at the last 5 ski seasons leading up to last year it would appear that there is a downward trend in the amount of ski season snowfall (198, 158, 134, 39 and 122 inches). However, if the period examined is extended back another 3 seasons, this trend does not continue. It turns out that 2012-2013 and 2013-14 had higher than normal amounts and that 2016-2017 was consistent with 2009-2010 and 2010-2011.



Climate- Temperature

For the months of November through March average monthly temperatures in the region (in degrees Fahrenheit) are 20 degrees in December, 14.9 for January, 16.4 for February, and 26.6 degrees in March. No temperature data specific to North Creek were available from the National Climatic Data Center, so these regional average monthly temperatures may vary somewhat from North Creek due to local climatic influences. The presence and configuration of the Adirondack Mountains contribute to the variability of the climate within the region including an increase in cloudiness and precipitation during the winter months.

Both natural snow cover and winter temperatures influence the duration of the ski season. Although natural snow cover generally exists between December and May, the ski season generally runs from November through April if conditions suitable to snow making exist early in the season. Snowmaking generally requires that the mean temperature drops to 32 degrees Fahrenheit. As long as the night temperatures are sufficiently cold an accumulation of man-made snow is possible even if daytime temperatures rise slightly above the freezing point.

The frost-free growing season generally extends from the first week in May to the first week in October and average monthly temperatures in this interval range from a low of 45.3 degrees Fahrenheit in October to a high of 65.1 degrees in June.

Air Quality

NYSDEC's *New York State Ambient Air Quality Report for 2016* reports that levels of sulfur dioxide and inhalable particulates (PM2.5) in Region 5 were well within acceptable air quality standards.

2. Biological Resources

a. Vegetation

Figure 20, "Vegetation," illustrates the plant communities existing on Gore Mountain Ski Center mapped as part of the 1995 UMP. Tree composition data from NYSDEC timber cruises were provided in Appendix 2 of the 1995 UMP, "NYSDEC Tree Cruise Data For Gore Mountain," were used to determine which of the ecological communities defined by the New York Natural Heritage Program (NHP) of NYSDEC (Reschke, 1990) were present on the project site. The timber inventory data and corresponding maps were then used in combination with 1983 aerial photographs to produce a map illustrating the approximate extent of the plant communities. This map shows only the broad-scale forest patterns and does not include such fine detail as the vegetation types within small areas such as clearings for ski trails and powerlines.

Following are brief descriptions of each of the major plant communities:

Beech-Maple Mesic Forest. This is the community that occupies the largest area on the site, especially the areas below about 2400 feet MSL elevation in the eastern and northern parts of the site. Sugar maple and beech are dominant, along with variable quantities of paper birch, red maple, yellow birch, and red oak.

Hemlock-Northern Hardwood Forest. In this community, hemlock is codominant with deciduous trees such as sugar maple, beech, red maple, and yellow birch. A small area that is potentially of this forest type was identified in the southeastern part of the site. Other, smaller areas may be located through ground-level vegetation surveys.

Spruce-Northern Hardwood Forest. At its upper elevation, beech-maple forest grades into this forest type, which extends up to about 3200 feet MSL. Its composition includes red spruce, sugar maple, beech, yellow birch, white birch, red maple and balsam fir. Striped maple is a common understory tree.

Mountain Spruce-Fir Forest. The tops of the highest mountains, above 3100 feet MSL, are dominated by red spruce and balsam fir, along with some paper birch and mountain ash.

Successional Northern Hardwoods. A few small areas in the easternmost part of the Intensive Use Area, plus areas on neighboring lands, were logged in the recent past and have undergone succession to a young woodland. Trees in these, areas may include red maple, aspens, balsam poplar, paper birch, white pine, green ash, and American elm.

b. Wildlife

In addition to the five forest habitat types on the project site described above, other community types occur on the site in lesser amounts including Mowed Roadside/Pathway (ski trails) and Reservoir/Artificial Impoundment (North Creek Reservoir).

The on-site vegetation communities support a variety of wildlife species known to utilize these habitat types within the Central Adirondack Ecozone. A number of species which have been documented to historically occur in the Upper Hudson River Basin (Hudson River Fish and Wildlife Report, Hudson River Level B Study, prepared by New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and United States Fish and Wildlife Service, April 1978) in general, and of these a number are likely to commonly occur on the site based upon their habitat preferences. Mammalian species likely to be common on the site include deer mouse, white-footed mouse, pine vole, woodland jumping mouse, short-tailed shrew, eastern chipmunk, porcupine, coyote, red squirrel, northern flying squirrel, pine marten, snowshoe hare, red fox, black bear, and whitetail deer.

A number of avian species are also likely to occur commonly on the site, some throughout the year and some as migrants. Based upon the NYSDEC/USFWS study and the habitat types found on the site, the avian species most likely to commonly occur on the site at any one time include ruffed grouse, broad-winged hawk, yellowbellied sapsucker, American robin, red-eyed vireo, brown-headed cowbird, rosebreasted grossbeak, purple finch, dark-eyed junco, white-throated sparrow, blue jay, American crow, black-capped chickadee, and brown creeper. Previous reports have stated that bald eagles and golden eagles have been observed in flight around the ski center lands, but these reports also state that no nesting sites are known to occur on the site or its immediate surroundings. A check with the Endangered Species Unit of NYSDEC confirmed that occurrences in the Gore Mountain area are instances of migrating individuals and not resident individuals of these two species.

Common amphibian and reptilian species known to occur in the upper Hudson River Basin and likely to occur on the site include spotted salamander, red-spotted newt, northern dusky salamander, red-backed salamander, spring salamander, northern twolined salamander, American toad, spring peeper, bullfrog, northern leopard frog, pickerel frog, snapping turtle, wood turtle, Eastern painted turtle, northern water snake, eastern garter snake and eastern milk snake. Of these species, the wood turtle is listed as a Special Concern species by the Natural Heritage Program of NYSDEC. As a special concern species, the wood turtle is not recognized as endangered or threatened, but documented concern exists for its continued welfare in New York.

Portions of the Gore Mountain Intensive Use Area at elevations above 2,800 feet are potential Bicknell's thrush habitat. See **Figure** 21, "Potential Bicknell's Thrush Habitat." Field studies were undertaken by the Wildlife Conservation Society (Saranac Lake) in 2004 and 2005 to determine if ski trail construction on Bear Mountain could potentially impact Bicknell's thrush. "Surveys involving playbacks conducted in 2004 and 2005 did not detect presence of Bicknell's thrush at Gore Mountain." See subsection "e" below regarding the Adirondack Sub-Alpine Forest Bird Conservation Area.

An inquiry to NY Natural Heritage Program resulted in a response that identified only Bicknell's thrush as being present at Gore Mountain IUA. No rare, threatened or endangered plant or

animal species, or unique plant communities or habitats were identified by the Natural Heritage Program. See the letter in **Appendix** 3. Also see section "e. Critical Habitat" below.

c. Fisheries

The ski area property contains the headwaters of three tributaries of North Creek and a portion of North Creek which is tributary to the Hudson River. Straight Brook, Roaring Brook and an unnamed tributary all begin on the ski area property, and on the Gore lands Roaring Brook has been dammed to form the North Creek Reservoir. The North Creek Reservoir once provided water to the Village of North Creek but is now used by Gore Mountain Ski Center for snowmaking. North Creek and its tributaries which are on the site are designated as trout waters by the NYSDEC. This indicates that these waters, at least historically, supported native trout populations. Confirmation of the presence of native trout populations was not made as part of the study. However, it is known that North Creek receives annual stocking of trout (brown, brook, and rainbow) by both NYSDEC and Warren County.

While the goal of this stocking program is to perpetuate the put and take fishery in North Creek, carry-over between years has likely resulted in the establishment of a population of the stocked strain(s). Prior investigations have theorized that the on-site tributaries to North Creek support native brook trout populations. Other species likely to be found in the coldwater communities of North Creek and its tributaries include various cyprinids (i.e. blacknose dace, cutlips minnows), sculpins, and white suckers.

The impounded North Creek Reservoir could conceivably support a community dominated by coolwater species such as yellow perch, chain pickerel, and brown bullhead.

According to the 2005 VMWF UMP, there have been no biological surveys of Rabbit Pond. "However, based on its small size, 0.4 acres, Rabbit Pond probably supports minimal to no fish life.

d. Unique Areas

No unique biological areas are known to occur on the ski center property or adjacent lands.

e. Critical Habitat

Adirondack Mountain summits above 2,800 feet in Clinton Essex, Franklin, Hamilton and Warren counties comprise the Adirondack Sub-alpine Forest Bird Conservation Area (BCA). More specifically, those summits above 2,800 feet with dense subalpine coniferous forests favored by Bicknell's thrush and other neotropical bird species. **Appendix** 4 contains NYSDEC's full description of this BCA.

3. Visual Resources

Visual inventories and visual impact assessments were performed as part of the 1995 UMP and for the 2002 UMP. Views into the ski area of Gore Mountain are primarily limited to its south and east exposures. The views of the ski area from the north are blocked to a large degree by South and Pete Gay Mountains.

The views of Gore Mountain from the south are limited to primarily to NY Route 28 at a few locations between Wevertown and the hill leading down to Peaceful Valley Road. Some other locations from where the ski area is visible are Durkin Road and County Route 29 near Oven Mountain Road. The ski area is visible from the section of NY Route 28N heading south from Olmstedville towards North Creek. Views from these locations are oftentimes screened by intervening vegetation.

B. Human Resources

1. Transportation

The local roadway network which provides access to the ski center includes NY Route 28, County Route 29 (Peaceful Valley Road), and County Route 73 (Gore Mountain Road). **Figures** 3 and 4 shows the ski area in relation to these highways.

NY Route 28 is an east-west highway which is classified as a minor arterial. In the vicinity of Peaceful Valley Road, NY Route 28 is a two-lane facility providing 11 foot travel lanes and shoulders of four to six feet in width. The speed limit is posted at 55 MPH for travel in both directions.

Peaceful Valley Road is a two lane collector facility that intersects NY Route 28 from the south forming a T-intersection. Gore Mountain Road intersects Peaceful Valley Road from the west at nearly 90 degrees. Gore Mountain Road provides a circuitous alignment and is on a steady westbound upgrade approaching the ski area.

The NY Route 28/Peaceful Valley Road intersection provides an exclusive westbound left turn lane on NY Route 28 to turn onto Peaceful Valley Road. The approach to NY Route 28 on Peaceful Valley Road has right turn and left turn lanes with the right turn lane facilitating traffic flow back towards Warrensburg.

Saturday is consistently the busiest day of the week. There is a distinct morning arrival peak that occurs between 8:00 and 10:00 and a distinct afternoon departure peak between 3:00 and 5:00.

2. Community Services

Police Protection

The Warren County Sheriff's Office and the New York State Police provide police protection in the Town of Johnsburg.

Fire and Rescue Services

The Town of Johnsburg has multiple volunteer fire departments. The North Creek Fire House, located on Main Street, covers the Gore Mountain area.

The Johnsburg Volunteer Emergency Squad is located on Peaceful Valley Road and serves the Gore Mountain Area. In most instances the Gore Ski Patrol and first aid staff have patients stabilized for transport when the Emergency Squad arrives. A large number of Ski Patrol people and first aid staff are members of the Johnsburg or Minerva emergency squads.

Solid Waste Disposal

A private hauler takes refuse and recyclables from Gore Mountain to the Town of Johnsburg Recycling Center Transfer Station in North Creek where it is compacted and then disposed of through Warren county contracts with the incinerator in Hudson Falls.

Hospital and Physician Services

Most medical emergencies are transported to Glens Falls Hospital which is a travel time of approximately 45 minutes.

North Creek Health Center on Ski Bowl Road does provide emergency medical services but they are only open certain hours of the day and are closed on Sunday.

The Warrensburg Health Center provided urgent care 7 days a week but only for certain hours of the day.

Schools

The Johnsburg Central School District incorporates most of the Town of Johnsburg and portions of the Towns of Chestertown and Thurman. The K-12 school is located in North Creek and graduated 14 students in 2016.

Water Supplies

The North Creek area is within the North Creek Water District which serves 355 structures or between 900 and 950 individuals. The water source is drilled wells. Those living outside the District rely on individual wells. Gore Mountain has its own water supply and distribution system and does not rely on the North Creek Water District (see section II.C.1.h, Potable Water).

Sewage

There is no public sewage treatment facility in Johnsburg. See section II.C1.l, Sanitary Wastewater.

Electric and Telecommunications

Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation provides electric services to the Johnsburg area.

A number of "household" phone services are available in the Johnsburg area.

Cellphone service on the mountain and along NY Route 28 in the vicinity of the mountain is variable depending on the cell phone provider.

3. Local Land Use Plans

The Town of Johnsburg has a total land area of 204.6 square miles, representing 23.5 percent of all of Warren County lands, making it the largest township in the county. The town is entirely located in the Adirondack Park with approximately two-thirds of the land area designated as wilderness, wild forest or other public lands. As reported by the Adirondack Park Agency in June 2017, approximately 40% of lands in the Town of Johnsburg are privately owned and the other 60% is owned by the State of New York. These lands are distributed under the private and state land classification in the Table below.

Table 2
Town of Johnsburg Land Classifications

Land Use Classification	Acres	Percentage
PRIVATE LANDS		
Hamlet	1,911	3.6%
Resource Management	5,376	10%
Moderate Intensity	648	1.2%
Industrial Use	939	1.8%
Low Intensity	8,634	16.1%
Rural Use	36,111	67.4%
TOTAL	53,619	100%
STATE LANDS		
Wilderness	51,900	65.4%
Wild Forest	21,517	27.1%
Primitive	4	<1%
Intensive Use	3,844 (Gore Mt. Ski Resort)	4.8%
Pending State	173	<1%
Water	2,023	2.6%
TOTAL	79,288	100%

Source: Adirondack Park Agency

The Adirondack Park Agency regulates land uses within the boundaries of each of the above land classifications. In addition, the Town of Johnsburg regulates land use through its approved Local Land Use Program (LLUP) completed in 2007, which also serves as the Town of Johnsburg Zoning Law. The Johnsburg Zoning Law designates residential, business and mixed-use districts within the hamlet of North Creek. The remainder of land is classified as rural mixed use generally following the APA Land Use Classification boundaries and density requirements. The Zoning Law regulates land uses and area requirements and includes Commercial-Industrial Floating Zone, sign regulations, and special use and site plan review provisions.

The Town's LLUP received strong support from the 2005 Johnsburg Comprehensive Plan which is intended to serve as a guide for future growth, development, and preservation in the Town of Johnsburg. This plan was also intended to serve as the basis for requests for any requests to amend the Adirondack Park Land Use and Development Plan Map pursuant to Section 805, part 2, c, (3) of the Adirondack Park Agency (APA) Act. Specifically, it is meant to serve as the "comprehensive inventory and analysis of the natural resource, public, economic and other land use factors as may reflect the relative development amenability and limitations of the lands within the entire jurisdiction," as well as the formally adopted comprehensive master plan cited in the aforementioned section and part of the APA Act.

A goal of the plan is to promote tourism and recreation for all seasons in order to provide local employment opportunities. Specific policies supported in the LLUP are as follows:

- Support the Gore Mountain Unit Management Plan that proposes to link the Gore Mountain Ski Resort with the hamlet of North Creek.
- Pursue other enhancements for the North Creek hamlet area and Ski-Bowl park as may be part of on-going implementation of the various plans prepared in the past.
- Continue to work with the Gore Mountain Region Chamber of Commerce, ORDA, and other interested groups to identify infrastructure improvements likely to be attractive to tourists.
- Identify appropriate locations for tourist and recreation businesses, and revise local zoning accordingly.

Other planning initiatives that support Gore Mountain improvements include:

- North Creek Action Plan (1993) dealt with economic development, hamlet revitalization, increasing tourism potential, and Main Street revitalization.
- Ski Bowl Park Enhancement Plan (1997) that provided details and cost estimates for needed facilities at the town owned and operated Ski Bowl Park.
- First Wilderness Heritage Corridor Plan (2001) for the rail corridor between Saratoga and North Creek was prepared. This plan established North Creek, Riparius, and The Glen as stops along the tourist railroad that began operation in 1999. Facilities constructed at each stop include parking, interpretative signs and small parks.

4. Historical and Archaeological Resources

There are no known historical or archeological resources present in the area proposed for the improvements.

C. Man-Made Facilities

1. Inventory of Constructed Facilities

a. Downhill Ski Slopes

A comprehensive inventory of existing downhill ski trails at Gore Mountain was undertaken for this 2018~~7~~ UMP Amendment. See **Appendix** 5.

Figure 22, "Gore Mountain, Ski Trail Inventory," illustrates the existing ski trails at Gore Mountain for the Winter 2016/2017 ski season.

Final trail length measurements were made electronically using AutoCAD Civil 3D-2014 and GIS software. **Table 1** in Appendix 5, "Gore Mountain Trail Inventory," presents the results of the inventory and mileage measurement for each trail. The Table lists each trail by name, indicates if a ski lift and/or snowmaking exists on a trail, and presents lengths of each trail by width (less

than 30 feet wide, 30 feet to 120 feet wide and 120 feet to 200 feet wide. Key totals are summarized below:

1. Total constructed trail length 0-200 feet wide at Gore Mountain, including Ski Bowl Trails 29.9 miles. A breakdown by trail difficulty is as follows:
   a) Easier 5.1 mi 17% of total
   b) More Difficult 17.3 mi 58% of total
   c) Most Difficult 6.5 mi 22% of total
   d) Experts Only 1.0 mi 3% of total

2. Net constructed trail length for trails 0-200 feet wide on "Intensive Use" lands (excluding trails on Town Park lands in the North Creek Ski Bowl) is 27.43 miles.

3. Total trail length by width on "Intensive Use" lands is as follows:
   a) Under 30 feet wide (on trail map and named) ~~4.7~~1.31 miles
   b) 30 feet to 120 feet wide ~~22.3~~25.69 miles
   c) 120 feet to 200 feet wide 0.42 miles

As stated above, the total constructed trail length 0-200 feet wide on Intensive Use lands is 27.43 miles. Based on updated calculations using the rules and methodology presented in Sections 2 and 3 in Appendix 5, 32.~~9~~85 miles are approved to be constructed. This is less than the 35.4 miles noted as approved in the 2005 UMP amendment. Gore Mountain is authorized to operate up to 40 miles of ski trails, and therefore has 7.15 miles of trails available for future planning and approval.

It is important to clarify that the areas on the mountain approved for trail construction in the 2005 UMP have not changed. The calculation methodology, applied rules and criteria and high resolution aerial imagery used in the inventory in Appendix 5 are more detailed than those applied previously, and therefore have resulted in a different total mileage. The 2005 UMP only provides a 'grand total' mileage calculation, and does not document the mileage individually for each trail. The last time a detailed mileage calculation was performed on a 'trail- by- trail' basis was over 20 years ago in the 1995 UMP. Since that time, portions of some trails have been re-named, previously proposed trails have been abandoned and additional mountain areas have been approved and developed. As a result, a tabulation of mileage calculated for each trail in the 1995 UMP, along with each trail described in the current Trail Inventory in Appendix 5, would not provide comparable data.

According to Article 14~~XIV~~, ski trails include areas 30-200 feet wide. At Gore Mountain, ~~4.7~~1.31 miles of trails are less than 30 feet wide. Should trails less than 30 feet wide be excluded from the total length of constructed trail calculation (27.43 miles), then Gore would have ~~22.73~~26.12 miles of constructed trails out of the 32.9 miles of approved trails and the 40 mile maximum.

b. Backcountry, Hiking and Mountain Bike Trails

Gore Mountain has approximately 14.6 miles of groomed cross country ski trails, with terrain ranging from "easiest" to "most difficult." The trails form several loops located on the lower part of Gore Mountain, as illustrated on **Figure** 7, Existing Conditions (South).

The trails average 12 feet in width. All trails are accessible from the base lodge and are routinely patrolled by professional ski patrol members. Trails are open from early December to late March as weather permits. Lessons, rentals and repair service are available from the base lodge, as well as access to other amenities and services.

The existing hiking trails at Gore Mountain, allowed by an amendment to the 1995 UMP, are located as shown on **Figures** 9 and 10, Existing and Proposed Hiking and Biking Trails (South and North) There are approximately 10 miles of such trails, generally consisting of a 5.5 mile trail to the top of Gore Mountain, known as the Schaeffer Trail, a 3 mile loop referred to as the Rabbit Pond and Oak Ridge Trails (about half of this trail is on ski center lands), and the Roaring Brook Trail which is about 1.5 miles long.

Existing trails for mountain biking are located as shown on **Figures** 9 and 10, Existing and Approved Hiking and Biking Trails (South and North). There are 22 such trails, which are accessed from the base or via the Northwoods Gondola to the summit of Bear Mountain. The gondola runs for the mountain biking season from June 30th to September 3rd on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, and from September 9th to October 9, from 10:30 AM through 5:30 PM. Helmets are required. Gore Mountain has mountain bike staff which patrols the trails during operation.

c. Lifts

There are 13 existing ski lifts at Gore Mountain. Lift locations are illustrated on **Figures** 7 and 8, Existing Conditions (South and North) Lift types and lift ages are listed below in Table 3, “Gore Mountain Lifts.”

Table 3
Gore Mountain Lifts

1	2014 Poma	Quad	Adirondack Express II
2	1997 CTEC	Quad	North Quad
3	1986 Riblet	Double	Sunway Chair
4	1963 Hall	JBar	J-Bar
9d	2001 Sun Kid	Conveyor	Snow train
6	1967 Riblet	Double	Parts from 1987 Riblet & 1996 CTEC High Peaks Chair
7	1995 CTEC	Quad	Straightbrook Quad
8	1999 Poma	Gondola	Northwoods Gondola
9a	1997 Poma	Platter	Old lift modernized & installed by Gore Bear Cub Lift
9c	2013 Sun Kid	Conveyor	Greenway Conveyor
10	2002 CTEC	Triple	Topridge Triple
11	2008 Poma	Detachable	Burnt Ridge Quad
12	Poma	Triple	Hudson Chair (top only in IUA, rest in Ski Bowl)

The Adirondack Express II, Lift #1, runs from the base to an intermediate point on the mountain referred to as the Saddle. The North Quad, Lift #2, services the north side of the mountain and discharges passengers just above the Saddle area. Two lifts run from an intermediate point to the summit (High Peaks Chair - Lift #6 and the Straight Brook Quad - Lift #7). Only the Northwoods Gondola, Lift #8, runs directly from the base to the summit of Bear Mountain. The Sunway Chair, Lift #3, runs from the base to approximately the midpoint of the Sunway trail. The Bear Cub Poma, Lift #9 A, is a beginner facility located southwest of the base lodge. The J-Bar, Lift #4, is another beginner facility located to the east of the base lodge.

d. Parking

Skier and visitor parking is currently provided in five lots located adjacent to the base lodge and gondola area. Four of these lots are dedicated to cars and one to buses. There is also a 6th satellite parking lot located on the lower portion of the access roadway which is limited to employee parking and some overflow bus parking on busy days.

Using an industry standard range of 140 to 180 cars per acre of parking, Gore Mountain's parking facilities can handle between 1,736 and 2,232 cars. During a typical ski weekend, the resort also accommodates between 20 and 25 buses. At the present time, the current available parking area is adequate to handle the parking demand, except during periods of peak demand when parking overflows onto the access road. Such overflows occur 3-5 times per year.

e. Access Roads

No revision to this section is necessary, except to note that the access road now terminates in the redesigned entry, circulation and ski center arrival/drop-off area approved in the 1995 UMP. The entry road will become a one way circular roadway with 3 lanes available in the passenger vehicle drop-off area, and 2 lanes available in the drop off area for buses. The improved circulation and drop-off area will be a significant asset by improving the efficiency and safety of the ski center.

f. Buildings

The ski area has four lodges available for use by skiers and visitors. The main lodge and Northwoods lodge are located at the base of the mountain and the Saddle Lodge is located mid-way up the mountain. The warming hut located at the Straight Brook area has been supplemented with a new Straight Brook lodge in the old summit gondola building.

The main lodge has a total area of approximately 45,000 square feet and consists of two stories. Facilities in the main lodge include food and beverage services, restrooms, ski school, retail sales, ski rental, public lockers, ticket office, bar/lounge, and nursery.

A recent addition to the Northwoods Lodge offers extra space to the rental and repair shop, expansion to the space allotted to the children's Mountain Adventure programs and food service for the Snow Sports School, and improved arrival and registration process. Larger restrooms on the lower level include a "family restroom" to accommodate parents with young children.

There is a new mid-mountain experience at the Saddle Lodge. The size of the space has more than doubled to 7,125 square feet, and occupancy has increased from 100 people to 238. Services now include a full-service or food court style meal with dining in front of a spectacular showcase of the Adirondack High Peaks. Updates to the Saddle Lodge also include an attractively styled vernacular, an expanded and updated kitchen to serve a larger, more creative menu, new bathrooms, and an approachable façade and lobby area upon entry. The fully renovated Saddle Lodge offers guests an appealing lunch alternative to the Base Lodge Food Court and Tannery Pub & Restaurant.

Gore Mountain's guests also have a new summit place to warm up at the Straight Brook Lodge. A complete renovation of the original 1967 gondola unloading station has kept the

original structure and most of the lift machinery intact while facilitating the basics of shelter, restrooms, and a place for socializing and camaraderie between skiers. Inside there is a warming room with tables and benches, vending machines, and eco-friendly composting toilets.

g. Maintenance Roads

Approximately 9 miles of maintenance roads traverse the ski area. These roads are used to accomplish summer maintenance of slopes and lifts and to access particular areas such as the saddle, the summit, pumphouse, reservoir, etc.

h. Potable Water

Potable water for the base area is provided by a drilled well located approximately 75 feet from the J-Bar lift. The well is 280 feet deep and has a capacity of 60 gpm at a depth of 46 to 48 feet. All water mains and hydrants are 6-inch cast iron. On demand, water is fed to a 100,000 gallon holding tank located at the top of the J-Bar hill. From there, the system is gravity fed and metered as it enters the lodge. During periods of high water demand in the lodge, when the well pump is running, water is routed directly into the lodge's distribution system.

Water supply for the Saddle Lodge located at mid-mountain is now supplied by a new 6 inch diameter drilled well. It is located in the vicinity of the Saddle Lodge. The well is 180 feet deep and yields 6+ gpm. The water is transmitted via a new main to the existing 5000 gallon static storage tank and then pumped to an existing 600 gallon pressure tank.

i. Snowmaking

Snowmaking is provided on almost 100% of Gore Mountain's trail terrain which covers approximately 334 acres. Sixty-five all-new high-efficiency ground guns and another new tower gun were added to the mountain in 2016. A fresh fleet of high-efficiency towers was installed in 2015, primarily along Showcase and Wild Air, allowing existing guns to be utilized in other areas. Twenty-two new permanent, high-efficiency tower guns were added the Topridge trail in 2014. These guns require significantly less air than the more traditional ground guns, offsetting energy use. New snowmaking was also placed around the Pipeline Bridge to further improve the interconnect with the Historic North Creek Ski Bowl.

The total snowmaking system combines both air and airless snowmaking technology. The Ski Center has increased its water use from the snowmaking reservoir from 223 million gallons in 2009-2010, to 305 million gallons during the 2013-2014 season. Hours of snowmaking operation averaged approximately 1,450 over the past 5 seasons.

j. Grooming Equipment

Grooming of alpine and nordic trails is accomplished with a fleet of seven grooming machines. It is anticipated that as terrain is developed as a result of the New Actions, that a total of two new grooming machines will be purchased.

k. Water Supply for Snowmaking

Snowmaking water is stored and drawn from the former North Creek Reservoir located northwest of the base area. The reservoir has a storage capacity of approximately 20 million gallons of water and is capable of recharging itself approximately four times per ski season. The Hudson River intake and pipeline was constructed, as proposed in the 1995 UMP, and water is now pumped from the river to the reservoir, and distributed on the mountain. Refer to Table 4, "Snowmaking Utilization" for additional detail.

Table 4 Snowmaking Utilization

		System					
	Trails	Capabilities	Operations	Water Use	Water Use	Average	
	(Acres)	(gpm)	(hours)	(gal)	(ac-ft.)	gpm	Utilization
Long term GOAL	**334**	**4800**	**1250**	**290,000,000**	**1,450**	**3,866.67**	**80.56%**
2015/2016	334	4800	**1384**	276,000,000	1,380	3,323.70	69.24%
2014/2015	334	4800	**1370**	290,000,000	1,450	3,527.98	73.50%
2013/2014	334	4800	1520	305,000,000	1,525	3,344.30	69.67%
2012/2013	332	4800	1677	276,816,000	1,384	2,751.10	57.31%
2011/2012	331.12	4800	1307	208,835,252	1,044	2,663.04	55.48%
2010/2011	331.12	4800	1544	228,528,000	1,143	2,466.84	51.39%
2009/2010	323	4800	1544	222,960,000	1,115	2,406.74	50.14%

l. Sanitary Wastewater

Gore Mountain's base area wastewater treatment plant underwent a major upgrade in 1991-1992. During the winter season (peak use period), wastewater is treated by a microbiologically activated sludge process consisting of equalization/pre-treatment, oxidation ditch and a tertiary microscreen and post-aeration. The plant capacity is 65,000 gallons per day (gpd) and can accommodate all of the proposed improvements to the ski center which are included in this UMP (including the on-mountain lodges). During the off-season, the oxidation ditch is taken off-line and wastewater is treated in a sequencing batch reactor in an extended aeration mode using the activated sludge process. Effluent polishing in the tertiary stage is accomplished by microscreen. The upper limit capacity is 20,000 gpd.

m. Drainage

Gore Mountain's existing stormwater drainage at the base of the mountain (lodge and parking lots) consists of pocket ponds, porous gravel lots and vegetated swales. Erosion and sediment control on the mountain is provided by water bars discharging to wooded areas that prevent water from reaching erosive velocities as runoff travels down the mountain.

n. Electrical Distribution

Power is supplied by the Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation to the site and is distributed throughout the ski area via 34,500 volt and 4,800 volt aerial power lines. The Gore Mountain power station is set for a 34,500 volt power supply at a maximum demand load of 7.5 megavolt amperes (MVA). The current peak demand is approximately 7 MVA. Of the total MVA currently used during peak operational periods, 3 MVA operates the air compressors. Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation has allocated a peak load power demand of 7.5 MVA to Gore Mountain. All primary lines originate at a substation where 34,500 incoming volts are distributed. Distribution is then accomplished via 34,500 volt aerial lines to some parts of the mountain, and by 4,800 volt aerial lines to other parts of the mountain.

o. Solid Waste Management

Solid waste from the ski center is hauled by ski center employees to the transfer station in North Creek. The town then transports refuse to the Adirondack Resource Recovery Facility in Hudson Falls. Approximately 448 cubic yards of compacted waste per year is generated by the ski center.

p. Equipment Inventory

The ski area owns and maintains equipment ranging from office and computer equipment to furniture, carpentry equipment, trail grooming equipment, vehicles and snowmaking equipment. A complete listing of "Inventory Equipment" is available for review at ORDA headquarters in Lake Placid, New York.

2. Inventory of Systems

a. Management

Gore Mountain Ski Center was built in the early 1960's and was first opened to the public in 1964. Early management was under the direction of the Bureau of Winter Recreation, Conservation Department (now known as the Department of Environmental Conservation). On April 1, 1984, management was delegated to the Olympic Regional Development Authority (ORDA) through an agreement with DEC, authorized by Chapter 99 of the Laws of 1984 (Article 8, Title 28, Section 2614, Public Authorities Law).

This agreement transferred to ORDA the use, operation, maintenance and management of the ski area. DEC remains the statutory custodian of the state-owned ski area. Under the agreement, ORDA is to maintain the facility subject to DEC inspections; make capital improvements with DEC'S prior written approval; establish a sinking fund for capital improvements; continue the level of prior public recreation; comply with specified prior agreements; and cooperate with DEC in completion of a Unit Management Plan for the ski area.

In 1991 DEC and ORDA entered into a Memorandum of Understanding superseding a 1984 memorandum between the parties, establishing methods and procedures by which managerial requirements contained in the underlying DEC/ORDA management agreements are to be complied with, and setting forth requirements for the operation of ORDA facilities and detailing procedures on how Unit Management Plans for each of the ORDA facilities are to be implemented. The MOU, in particular, relates to requirements for notices of management actions described in Unit Management Plans; the need to adhere to the DEC tree cutting policy; and identifies those activities that need to be undertaken which are not described in Unit Management Plans. This 1991 MOU was incorporated into the current (2013) DEC/ORDA Consolidation Agreement that covers Whiteface, Gore, the Memorial Highway and Mount Van Hoevenberg. A copy of the 2013 Consolidation Agreement is in **Appendix** 2 of this UMP. The 2013 Consolidation Agreement reestablishes the procedures for preparation of UMP's including such things as UMP content, UMP conformance with the SLMP, and the roles of ORDA, DEC and the APA in preparation, review and approval of UMPs.

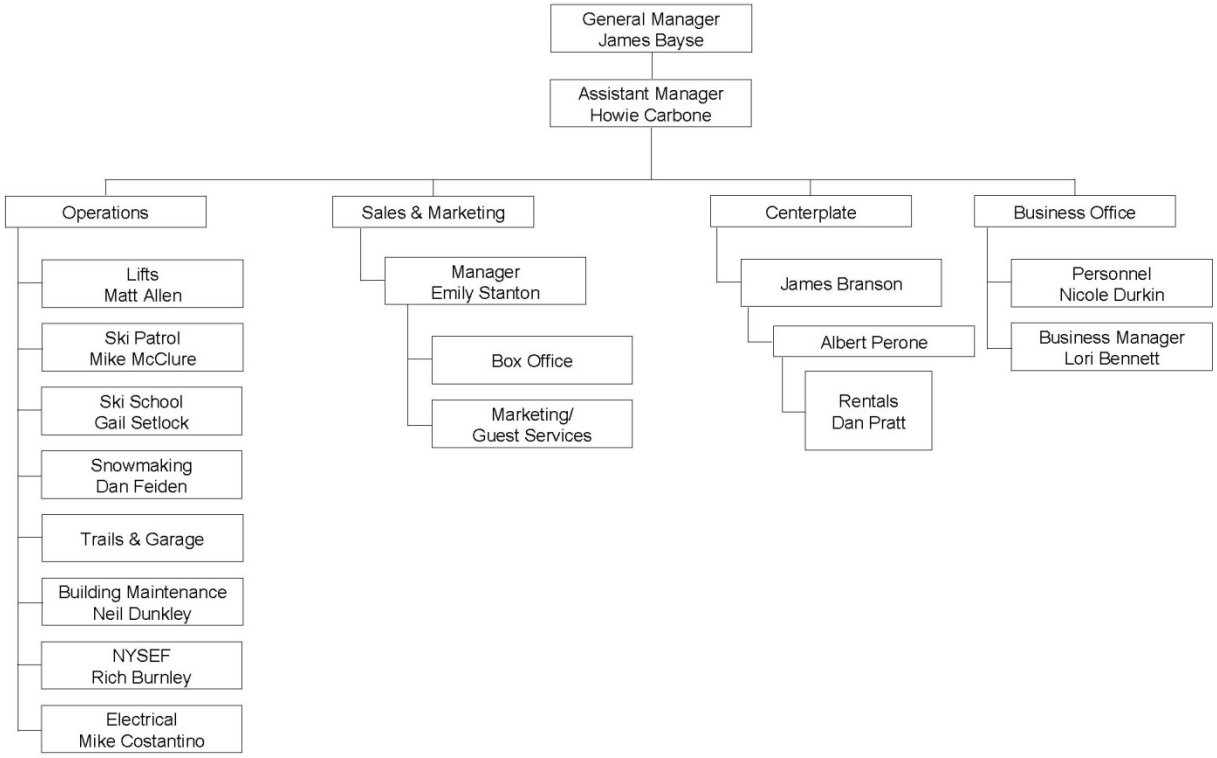
b. Organization

The New York State Olympic Regional Development Authority (ORDA) was created in 1981 by the State Legislature as a public authority to oversee and manage the Olympic facilities in an effort to insure continued use and enjoyment of the facilities by the public. ORDA is composed of twelve members, three of these the Commissioners of the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, Economic Development, and Parks & Recreation Departments, and the remaining seven appointed by the Governor of the State of New York. One of the appointed members, since the management of Gore Mountain was transferred to ORDA, must be a resident of Warren County. ORDA manages and operates the Gore Mountain Ski Center under its agreement with the Department of Environmental Conservation. The staff is led by the Authority's President and Chief Executive Officer.

c. Operations

Personnel employed at Gore Mountain Ski Center vary with the season. During the winter season there are approximately 47 permanent and 453 seasonal staff. The ski school employs approximate one year-round, 4 full-time seasonal and 189 part-time personnel. The ski patrol operates with 45 staff and approximately 90 volunteers. During the summer months, there are approximately 37 fulltime staff and a maintenance crew which totals approximately 70 personnel.

Figure 23
Organizational Structure
Gore Mountain Ski Area



d. Contractual Arrangements

On July 16, 2011, the Authority entered into a 10 year agreement with Centerplate whereby the Authority granted Centerplate a license to have exclusive rights to furnish and install certain equipment and improvements and to manage and operate the food, beverage, catering and merchandise services, equipment rental/ski touring concessions including liquor/sales, food, and retail services at all ORDA Olympic facilities on a year-round basis. Per the Agreement, the license is valid until July 15, 2021 with an option to renew for another 10 years upon the mutual written consent of both parties.

Under the terms of the Agreement, Centerplate's exclusive rights are subject to certain other contracts existing with the Authority, including: for Whiteface: the summer mountain bike rental concession agreement with High Peaks Cyclery of Lake Placid, New York.

Part and parcel to the Agreement is Centerplate's obligation to comply with all present and future federal and state laws, codes and regulations applicable to the conduct of the activities authorized, including all other applicable governmental regulations affecting the ORDA and the

Olympic facilities in regard to the sale, use and storage of materials. Centerplate is also responsible for procuring, at its own expense, all permits, licenses or other approvals necessary for the performance of its duties under the terms of the License.

Snowmaking Water Supply - In accordance with the management agreement with DEC, ORDA continues to abide by the license granted by the Town of Johnsburg for the use of water in the North Creek Reservoir in connection with snowmaking operations at Gore Mountain Ski Center.

D. Public Use of the Ski Center

1. Ski Season Use

In **Table** 5, Winter Public Use of Gore Mountain Ski Center, it can be seen that there was no clear trend in the number of ticketed visits between 2005/2006 and this past winter (2016-2017). Average annual ticketed visits to the Ski Center during this time period was 137,090.

Similarly, there was no clear trend over time for the number of annual season pass holder visits. Average annual passholder visits for the period was 78,174.

The peak ticketed days of attendance used to always be within the February Presidents' Week. Since the last UMP Amendment, this has changed. President's Week continues to be the time of highest attendance with 8 of the 12 years reported below occurring during this February holiday. For two of the years below, the peak attendance day occurred in January during the Martin Luther King holiday weekend period. In one year (2012-2013) peak attendance occurred during the week of Christmas on December 28th. Last season's peak day attendance of 7,225 was the highest for the 2005-2017period.

Table 5
Winter Public Use of Gore Mountain Ski Center
from 2005-2006 until 2016-2017 (includes passholders)

Snow Season	Ticketed Visits	Passholder Visits	Total Visits
05-06	164,363	69,930	234,293
06-07	127,277	74,820	202,097
07-08	147,960	82,275	230,235
08-09	141,134	82,488	223,622
09-10	133,772	84,000	217,772
10-11	131,824	80,463	212,287
11-12	119,288	74,115	193,403
12-13	148,264	70,740	219,004
13-14	161,757	79,695	241,452
14-15	154,217	82,815	237,032
15-16	78,314	82,170	160,484
16-17	136,907	74,580	211,487

Snow Season	Peak Day	Ticketed Visits
05-06	2/18/2006	4,417
06-07	2/14/2007	5,989
07-08	2/16/2008	6,002
08-09	2/14/2009	5,414
09-10	2/13/2010	6,520
10-11	1/15/2011	5,476
11-12	2/18/2012	5,405
12-13	12/28/2012	5,763
13-14	2/16/2014	5,919
14-15	1/18/2015	5,428
15-16	1/17/2016	4,753
16-17	2/19/2017	7,225

Snow Season	President's Holiday Week (Ticketed Visits)
05-06	31,662
06-07	35,537
07-08	31,390
08-09	31,955
09-10	33,446
10-11	31,134
11-12	29,358
12-13	28,302
13-14	32,636
14-15	25,450
15-16	20,004
16-17	32,748

2. Non-Ski Season Use

The summer and fall season program centers around hiking, mountain biking (including mountain bike racing), educational interpretive opportunities and nature-oriented activities. Gore Mountain hosts an annual fall festival. The gondola is operated as a tourist attraction year-round. Hunting, trapping and fishing are prohibited at the Gore Mountain Ski Center. Only non-consumptive use of wildlife resources is permitted on Ski Center lands.

Use data for mountain biking, scenic rides, hiking, and base area activities have all been collected since the 2012-2013 season and those data are presented in the table below. During

this period there has been a decline in mountain biking by almost 2/3. There was no real trend over the years for the number of gondola riders/hikers with the average for the 5-year period being 9,565. There is a decreasing trend in the number of base area activities participants, but not a consistent trend through the 5 year period.

Table 6
Non-winter Public Use of Gore Mountain Ski Center
(2012-2013 to 2016-2017)

	2016-17	2015-16	2014-15	2013-14	2012-13
Summer / Fall Visits	Visits	Visits	Visits	Visits	Visits
Mountain Biking	134	212	248	257	391
Scenic Rides/Hiking	7780	10,088	8,442	11,615	9,899
Other (disc golf, bungee, etc.)	614	869	843	1,037	936
	8,528	11,169	9,533	12,909	11,226

SECTION III MANAGEMENT AND POLICY

A. Orientation and Evolution of Management Philosophy

ORDA's central management goal and management philosophy as stated in the 1987 UMP:

"The Olympic Regional Development Authority will continue to provide a safe, quality, recreational experience to the public and promote both local and regional economic benefits through its responsibility to manage and operate the Gore Mountain Ski Center to the highest standard."

ORDA's goals and management philosophy have evolved since its inception following the 1980 Olympic Games. Originally created as a management organization with a priority of providing a safe, quality, recreational experience, ORDA has expanded its operational philosophy to encompass business strategies that are similar to leaders in the ski resort and sports industry. It is recognized that ORDA's unique portfolio of assets have an ability to positively impact the economies in which it operates. In addition, ORDA's sporting events, attractions, and training facilities enhance people's lives.

Today, ORDA continues to build on the foundation of its mission and is deploying a philosophy that will allow the organization to be sustainable long into the future. This will be accomplished through strategic planning and open communication both internally and externally with all constituents. The business priorities are organized into three categories:

1.) Revenue Growth and Opportunities
2.) Capital Projects and Development
3.) Organizational Excellence

Within each of these categories, ORDA's centralized team works with management teams to develop strategic business plans for each venue that are in line with ORDA's goals and objectives. Short descriptions of these priorities are as follows:

<u>Revenue Growth and Opportunities</u>

Each year, management teams evaluate short term and long term concepts to increase revenue. Additionally, they explore opportunities in hosting major events, creating new partnerships that amplify ORDA's offerings, and overall, provide guests with the best experience. ORDA measures success through end of the year evaluations in specific revenue segments, visitation numbers, event profit and loss statements, and NPS (Net Promoter Score). (NPS is system utilized by leading resort operators in the industry and has been directly correlated with the ability to increase visitation and revenue.)

Capital Projects and Environment

Capital projects will be initiated through management and in line with ORDA's strategic plans. General priorities include refurbishment of outdated structures for safety, development or improvement of attractions or infrastructure that enhance the guest experience or allows ORDA to increase visitation and revenue.

Many ORDA venues exist within the boundaries of State protected lands and the impact of climate change on our environment is recognized. ORDA will be a leader in environmental stewardship with consistent commitment to sustainability, responsible development practices, and continuous communication with DEC, APA, and other regulatory agencies to ensure we are taking the appropriate measures.

Organizational Excellence

ORDA will strive for organizational excellence in every facet of its operation. From financial management, team building, communication, education, strategic planning, to overall safety, organizational excellence is a vision where every employee focuses on ways to improve or positively influence our operations.

B. Regulatory Issues

1. New York State Constitution Article 14~~XIV~~

Article ~~XIV~~ 14 of the State Constitution defines the intended "Forever Wild" character of Forest Preserve lands and establishes authorized uses and exceptions. Significant issues with respect to Gore Mountain are as follows:

a. Ski Trails

Article 14~~XIV~~ establishes allowable limits for timber cutting to construct ski slopes on Forest Preserve lands at certain specified lengths and widths. As originally promulgated, Article 14 ~~XIV~~ allowed up to thirty (30) miles of ski-trails from thirty (30) to eighty (80) feet in width on the slopes of Gore and Pete Gay Mountains in the Gore Mountain Intensive Use Area. In 1987, Article 14~~XIV~~ was amended to allow up to forty (40) miles of trails and to increase the maximum allowable width of ski trails on the slopes of Gore and Pete Gay Mountains from 80 feet to 200 feet, provided that no more than eight miles of such trails are in excess of 120 feet wide. Based on Attorney General and NYSDEC legal reviews, the cross country trails are not considered a part of the 40 mile limit. The 1987 Constitutional Amendment removed South Mountain from the Gore Mountain Ski Center.

The construction of cross country ski trails was authorized by an Attorney General's Opinion dated January 18, 1934. These trails are allowed on Forest Preserve land when the cutting of

trees "to any material degree" will not be necessary, and the character of the preserve is not impaired.

The Constitution, while it establishes a limit for the width of ski trails, infers that these trails will be separated by buffer strips. There are no specific guidelines for widths of buffer zones that separate ski trails from other trails, lifts, access roadways, snowmaking facilities and buildings.

Buffer zone widths are influenced by variations in topography, drainage patterns, rock outcrops, soil stabilization concerns, safety considerations, machinery requirements and visual aesthetics.

b. Vegetative Cutting

Article 14~~XIV~~ states that Forest Preserve land, as currently fixed by law, either presently owned or acquired in the future by the State, will be kept forever as wild forest lands. As such, Forest Preserve lands cannot be leased, sold, or exchanged, or be taken by any public or private corporation. Timber on Forest Preserve land cannot be removed, sold or destroyed. In the interest of public safety and in consideration of the development of protective and recreational facilities, it has been necessary for the Department of Environmental Conservation, as the managing authority for Forest Preserve lands, to periodically ascertain the limitations of legislative intent from the State Attorney General pertaining to the cutting, removal and destruction of trees.

In instances where cutting has not been sanctioned by constitutional amendment, the opinion and interpretation of the State's Attorney General has been sought on allowable cutting activities. One such opinion, dated January 18, 1934, pertaining to ski trail construction stated; "ski-trails (cross-country) may be constructed by the Conservation Department in the Forest Preserve when cutting trees to any material degree, will not be necessary and the wild forest character of the Preserve will not be impaired."

In addition, trees may be removed for several other purposes. An Attorney General's opinion dated February 5, 1935 authorizes the removal of trees in the Forest Preserve that endanger public safety. An Attorney General's opinion dated September 20, 1934 allows the use or removal of vegetation for surveying triangulation stations, where these stations serve as an aid to the conservation work of the State, and where the number of small trees used or removed for the work appear immaterial.

The cutting of trees to establish scenic vistas is addressed in an Attorney General's opinion of January 17, 1935. In this opinion, vistas may be established as long as the work is "carried on with care in order that the tree removal may not be sufficient to pass the point of immateriality."

Before the creation of a vista, alternate locations in the area and alternate methods of achieving the view must be considered. For example, a more sparsely wooded site might be found, or an observation platform erected.

The salvage of windfall timber is authorized when it is determined that it represents a fire hazard in an opinion dated July 26, 1945. Salvaged timber cannot be sold or given away to anyone who may sell it, but it can be used for any project under Department of Environmental Conservation jurisdiction.

A June 24, 1986 Attorney General Opinion (No. 86-F3) addresses the issue of whether the DEC may cut live-standing trees for use in the maintenance of existing trails in the forest preserve. The opinion concludes that: "The carefully planned and supervised selective cutting in the forest preserve of only those few scattered trees necessary for the maintenance of popular and steep trails to lessen soil compaction, erosion and the destruction of vegetation may be conducted consistent with the 'forever wild' provisions of the State Constitution, as long as it does not occur to any material degree." The Gore Mountain Unit Management Plan and supporting GEIS provides the necessary framework and procedures to ensure compliance with this standard.

Adherence to the DEC Commissioner's Tree Cutting Policy (Organization and Delegation Memorandum 84-06) is mandated in the 1991 DEC/ORDA Memorandum of Understanding for the implementation of Unit Management Plans. The Memorandum of Understanding requires approval of the DEC Director of the Division of Lands and Forest for the cutting of any vegetation at the State Facilities under ORDA's control. The request for approval to cut trees for the purposes of new construction, expansion or modification of projects must be submitted in writing and include specifically required detailed information. Furthermore, the DEC policy and procedures were amended in 1986 to include the requirement for adequate notice in the Environmental Notice Bulletin to the public as to the number of trees proposed to be cut and the size of the land involved on specific projects.

These requirements combine to assure that the test for "carefully planned and supervised selective cutting" will be met. In addition to authorizing tree cutting for ski trails, Article 14~~XIV~~ permits cutting for appurtenances associated with the trails. ORDA, as did the previous DEC management, considers appurtenances to the ski trails to be those improvements and structures necessary to operate a modem, state-of-the-art ski center for safe, enjoyable skiing. Generally, these include such facilities as ski lifts, lodges, service roadways, parking lots, utility and water lines and other buildings and improvements needed for the operation and management of the ski center. Appurtenances are constructed on a case-by-case basis based upon criteria of effective use, safe engineering design and minimum disturbance to vegetation and other natural features. They are performed in accordance with this UMP and the 2013 DEC/ORDA Consolidation Agreement, as well as in accordance with the guidelines and criteria expressed in the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan.

DEC'S established policy regarding cutting, removal and destruction of trees and other vegetation on all forest preserve lands is found in the Policies and Procedures of the Commissioner of Environmental Conservation (Organization and Delegation Memorandum #84-06 as amended). This policy recognizes the tree cutting sanctioned through constitutional amendment (e.g. ski trails) and by the Attorney General's Opinions above. Adherence to the commissioner's tree cutting policy is mandated in the DEC/ORDA Memorandum of Understanding of 1991 that is part of the 2013 DEC/ORDA Consolidation Agreement. All vegetation cutting at the Gore Mountain Ski Center must be in accordance with this policy.

The removal of cut trees may be done in any manner consistent with the guidelines of the SLMP, the UMP and Article 8 of the ECL.

c. Non-Alienation

Article 14~~XIV~~ of the State Constitution provides that Forest Preserve Lands "...shall not be leased, sold or exchanged to any corporation public or private".

In the case of Slutsky vs. Cuomo. et.al., the DEC management agreement with ORDA was challenged as violative of the non-alienation of State Forest Preserve land provisions in Article 14~~XIV~~. The Appellate Division, Third Department, affirmed a lower court decision and upheld the constitutionality of this statutorily mandated agreement. On June 10, 1986, the Court of Appeals dismissed the Appellants appeal on the ground that no substantial constitutional ground was involved in the matter.

2. Adirondack State Land Master Plan

The State Land Master Plan (SLMP) classifies State Lands in the Forest Preserve according to their character and capacity to withstand use and sets forth general guidelines and criteria for the management and use of state lands. The SLMP classifies the Gore Mountain Ski Center as an Intensive Use Area. Intensive Use Areas are defined as follows:

> "An Intensive Use Area is an area where the state provides facilities for intensive forms of outdoor recreation by the public. Two types of Intensive Use Areas are defined by this plan: campground and day use areas."
>
> "These areas provide overnight accommodations or day use facilities for a significant number of visitors to the Park and often function as a base for use of wild forest, wilderness, primitive and canoe areas."

Guidelines for management and use which apply to Intensive Use Areas, including Gore Mountain, include:

- "The primary management guideline for Intensive Use Areas will be to provide the public opportunities for family group camping, developed swimming and boating, downhill skiing, cross country skiing under competitive or developed conditions on improved cross country

ski trails, visitor information and similar outdoor recreational pursuits in a setting and on a scale that are in harmony with the relatively wild and undeveloped character of the Adirondack Park.

- "All intensive use facilities should be located, designed and managed so as to blend with the Adirondack environment and to have the minimum adverse impact possible on surrounding state lands and nearby private holdings. They will not be situated where they will aggravate problems on lands already subject to or threatened by overuse, such as the eastern portion of the High Peaks Wilderness, the Pharaoh Lake Wilderness or the St. Regis Canoe Area or where they will have a negative impact on competing private facilities. Such facilities will be adjacent to or serviceable from existing public road systems or water bodies open to motorboat use within the Park."

- "Construction and development activities in Intensive Use Areas will:
    - avoid material alteration of wetlands;
    - minimize extensive topographic alterations;
    - limit vegetative clearing; and,
    - preserve the scenic, natural and open space resources of the Intensive Use Area."

- "Priority should be given to the rehabilitation and modernization of existing Intensive Use Areas and the complete development of partially developed existing Intensive Use Areas before the construction of new facilities is considered."

- "No new structures or improvements at any Intensive Use Area will be constructed except in conformity with a final adopted unit management plan for such area. This guideline will not prevent the ordinary maintenance rehabilitation or minor relocation of conforming structures or improvements."

- "Since the concentrations of visitors at certain intensive use facilities often pose a threat of water pollution, the state should set an example for the private sector by installing modern sewage treatment systems with the objective of maintaining high water quality. Standards for the state should in no case be less than those for the private sector and in all cases any pit privy, leach field or seepage pit will be at least 150 feet from the mean high water mark of any lake, pond, river or stream."

There is one management guideline specific to Gore Mountain in the SLMP:

"Existing downhill ski centers at Gore and Whiteface should be modernized to the extent physical and biological resources allow. Cross country skiing on improved cross country ski trails may be developed at these downhill ski centers."

The SLMP provides that Unit Management Plans be developed by the DEC in consultation with the APA for management of state lands. Such management plans shall conform to the general

guidelines and criteria set forth in the SLMP. UMPs are also to be amended from time to time. The responsibility for preparation of the Gore Mountain UMP has been delegated to ORDA, as discussed below.

3. 2005 Unit Management Plan Amendment

The following is a summary of the current status of management action that have changed since the 2005 UMP Amendment. The status of all actions is included in **Table** 1 in Section 1 of this UMP/GEIS.

New Trails and Crossovers

- 12-A Pipeline Access to Gore Base is now 30% complete
- 12-B Oak Ridge access to Pipeline Trail is now 50% complete

Existing Trail Widening

- 1-F Upper Twister 80% is now complete
- 1-F Lower Twister 80% is now complete

Lifts – Lift #1 has been constructed

Lodges and Buildings

- Entry Drive/Drop off/Parking Renovation is now 50% complete
- Learning Center is completed

Trail Markers and Interpretive Systems – Interpretive Systems are now 25% complete

Parking Lots – New Passenger Car Lots are now 50% complete.

4. Environmental Conservation Law

Section 9-09031 of the Environmental Conservation Law places the "care, custody and control" of the Gore Mountain Ski Center with the Department of Environmental Conservation.

5. Olympic Regional Development Authority Act

The Olympic Regional Development Act (Article 8, Title 28, NYS Public Authorities Law) establishes the Olympic Regional Development Authority (ORDA) and sets forth its responsibilities, functions and duties. The management of the Gore Mountain Ski Center was transferred to ORDA pursuant to Chapter 99 of the Laws of 1984. This authority was implemented by an agreement between the DEC and ORDA on April 1, 1984.

6. DEC - ORDA Memorandum of Understanding and Consolidation Agreement

The DEC and ORDA implement their mutual responsibilities for management of Gore through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) dated March 8, 1991. The MOU sets forth mutually agreeable methods and procedures by which managerial requirements are implemented. The MOU also establishes the means by which the existing UMP is implemented. Such means generally involve notification, inspection and review of actions to ensure compliance with the UMP and applicable regulations.

In 2013 DEC and ORDA entered into a Consolidation Agreement that, in part, incorporates the 1991 MOU. A copy of this *Agreement Consolidating the Management Agreements for the Gore Mountain Ski Center, the Whiteface Mountain Ski Center and Memorial Highway, and the Mount Van Hoevenberg Recreation Area* is in **Appendix** 2. The 2013 Consolidation Agreement reestablishes the procedures for preparation of UMP's including such things as UMP content, UMP conformance with the SLMP, and the roles of ORDA, DEC and the APA in preparation, review and approval of UMPs.

C. Management Goals and Objectives

Gore Management has established goals and objectives in line with ORDA's key priorities:

1.) Revenue Growth and Opportunities
2.) Capital Projects and Environment
3.) Organizational Excellence

Revenue Growth and Opportunities

a. Gore Mountain will seek to modernize facilities at Gore in order to enhance the guest experience, improve skier safety, and increase local and regional economic benefits, while maintaining environmental quality.

b. Gore Mountain will seek to develop new summer and fall usage of the Ski Center to provide greater year-round use of the facility by the public, consistent with Article 14~~XIV~~ and the SLMP.

c. Gore Mountain will work closely with the North Creek community and Town of Johnsburg to provide information to visitors about the area and to cooperate in the establishment of a shuttle link between the Ski Center and North Creek and a physical ski link to Ski Bowl Park in order that public use may better help promote the economy of the area.

Capital Projects and Environment

a. Gore Mountain Ski Center is a participator in Sustainable Slopes, which is the environmental charter for ski areas compiled by the National Ski Areas Association. Ski areas provide a quality outdoor recreation experience in a manner that complements the natural and aesthetic qualities that draws skiers to the mountains. Gore Mountain Ski Center is committed to improving environmental performance in all aspects of its operations and managing the area to allow for continued enjoyment by future generations.

b. Gore Mountain will seek to increase the capacity of the ski area in concert with other modernization objectives in order to provide a higher quality skiing experience.

c. Gore Mountain will implement a capital improvements program to achieve the above objectives. Specific elements are discussed in Section IV below.

Organizational Excellence

a. Gore Mountain management will seek to establish annual budgets and schedules in support of the proposed capital improvements plan and other management objectives.

b. Gore Mountain will seek to improve infrastructure reliability in order to reduce the high frequency of breakdown, excessive staffing requirements and consequent financial drain.

c. Gore Mountain will seek to reduce its operations and maintenance costs by replacing outdated and aged equipment.

d. Gore Mountain will seek to improve its economic return by making the mountain more attractive to skiers, and thus increasing ticket sales.

e. Gore Mountain will seek to improve skier safety and enjoyment by widening certain trails and improving certain trail intersections.

f. Gore Mountain will seek to improve trail selection and create a better balance among trails in order to appeal to a greater cross-section of the skiing market by increasing the number of trails for the beginning and advanced skier.

g. Gore Mountain will continue to develop informational and interpretive graphics and displays which will educate the ski center's users to the historical, cultural and environmental conditions in the North Creek area as well as the Adirondack Park in general.

SECTION IV PROPOSED MANAGEMENT ACTIONS AND PROJECTED USE

A. Proposed Management Actions to be Undertaken after Acceptance and Adoption of this UMP

1. General

ORDA proposes to undertake a number of management actions to further its goals for the future of Gore Mountain. Those goals include the following.

- Make Gore Mountain more desirable for recreational guests, athlete training and hosting premier events.
- Modernize aging facilities and infrastructure
- Continue energy efficiency improvements
- Improve operational efficiency
- Increase competitiveness in the marketplace
- Explore potential for, and increase development of year-round and summer attractions
- Improve quality and diversity of recreational facilities
- Attract more visitors , including the younger generation/next generation

2. New Downhill Trails and Lifts

a. Widen Non-Beginner Trails

Trail Widening is proposed for Twister and for Echo.

The plan for Twister is to build upon previously approved widening efforts and widen portions less than 120 feet wide to 120 feet to achieve consistent width along the entire trail.

The bottom of the Echo trail it is proposed be widened to 120 feet to accommodate the new trail connection from Burnt Ridge and to better accommodate existing ski racing on Echo.

b. Add new triple or quad chair (Lift 9B), from Northwoods Lodge up Lower Sunway to just past the bend in Lower Sunway

Sunway/Lower Sunway is the longest beginner ski trail on Gore Mountain. The trail extends from its top near the Saddle Lodge down to the Northwoods Lodge. While the trail as a whole is rated as a beginner/easiest trail, different sections of the trail have different levels of difficulty.

Beginning skiers will typically progress from starting with the surface lifts on Bear Cub Run and the J-bar lift at Starting Gate to riding the existing Sunway Chair. This progression of terrain difficulty is sometimes too challenging for the beginning skier.

By adding this additional lift that puts beginning skiers lower on Lower Sunway where terrain is less challenging, there can be a more gradual progression of terrain difficulty for beginning skiers.

c. Widen Sunway and other green trails served by Lift 3

Figure 1, 2018~~7~~ New Management Actions (South), shows the areas of trail widening.

- Sunway above and below the relocated Sunway lift
- Otter Slide
- 3B
- Cutoff
- Ward Hill
- Lower Sunway
- Little Dipper
- Jamboree

Trail widening in these areas will lessen congestion and provide for more enjoyable and safer skiing conditions on this beginner and intermediate terrain.

3. Snowmaking - Enlarge snowmaking reservoir

During periods of optimal snowmaking weather, the capacity of the existing snowmaking reservoir can limit the ski trail snowmaking capability on Gore Mountain.

The primary snowmaking water source for Gore Mountain is its intake on the Hudson River near the North Creek train station. Gore Mountain is permitted to withdraw 4,800 gallons per minute at its Hudson River intake (2014 NYSDEC Water Withdrawal Permit). Water that is withdrawn from the Hudson River is pumped up to the existing snowmaking reservoir near the Pipeline Traverse.

There is a snowmaking pumphouse located adjacent to the reservoir that pumps water from the reservoir up to the mountain snowmaking system. Pumping capacity at the pumphouse is permitted for 6,800 gpm (2005 UMP).

Thus, the withdrawal capacity from the reservoir can exceed the supply capacity from the Hudson River by 2,000 gpm. This 2,000 gpm can be considered as a “supply deficit.”

The snowmaking reservoir has a surface area of +/- 5.2 acres and a storage capacity of +/- 19,000,000 gallons (19 Mgal). See **Figure** 24, Existing Snowmaking Reservoir.

With a supply deficit of 2,000 gpm, the reservoir can be emptied in times of peak snowmaking in approximately 6 ½ days of continuous peak withdrawal snowmaking.

Providing more storage volume would extend the time period when Gore Mountain can make snow during optimal snowmaking conditions.

Various options were examined for expanding the storage capacity of the snowmaking reservoir.

Option 1 involves excavating out portions of the reservoir within its existing footprint. By creating 3:1 sideslopes around the perimeter of the reservoir down to the depth of the reservoir intake, the volume of the reservoir could be increased from 19 Mgal to 23.5 Mgal (+4.5 Mgal).

Other options involve expanding the footprint of the existing reservoir.

Examination of these options included delineation of wetlands. The SLMP Guidelines for Management and Use of Intensive Use Areas include avoidance of material alteration of wetlands from construction and development activities. Identified wetlands included a complex located on the west end along the main reservoir inlet and a coniferous wetland located on a topographic bench between the Pipeline Traverse and the south shore of the reservoir.

Figure 25, Snowmaking Reservoir Expansion, illustrates an option for expanding the reservoir that avoids material alteration of wetlands. Under this option the reservoir snowmaking water supply storage capacity increases from 19 Mgal to 30.1 Mgal. This additional 11.1 Mgal would provide for an additional 92 continuous hours of peak snowmaking water supply from the reservoir.

4. Buildings

a. Expand NYSEF building

Two additions will be built on the NYSEF building. See **Figure** 14, 2018~~7~~ Master Plan – Approved and Proposed Actions (Base Area).

The first will be a 2,350 square feet (25 x 47) addition. This may be one story or it may be two stories.

The second addition will be 775 square feet (31 x 25) and will be one story.

These additions will house administrative space, expanded and improved restrooms, expanded

ski tuning area, an event registration room, ski and equipment storage, and meeting space.

b. Reconfigure 1995 UMP-approved maintenance area to locate groomer garage and fueling adjacent to existing ski trail

Figure 14, 2018~~7~~ Master Plan – Approved and Proposed Action (Base Area), illustrates the location of the garage where Gore Mountain groomers are stored and maintained as well as the location of the fuel pumps used to fuel the groomers.

These locations do not have direct access to and from ski trails and present operational issues when grooming takes place. Groomers are forced to travel over areas without snow cover to get in and out of the garage and to get fuel. This results in damage to groomer tracks and cleats that must be repaired and groomers being out of service during repairs. In addition, groomers currently track dirt/mud onto the ski trails after they refuel and go back onto the mountain.

Figure 14, 2018~~7~~ Master Plan – Approved and Proposed Action (Base Area), illustrates the location of a new groomer garage building located in a currently wooded area adjacent to the Sunway trail. There are existing work roads on the east and south sides of the proposed new garage.

The 75 feet by 120 feet garage building will be able to house 9 groomers. There will be garage doors on the north and south ends of the building. Attached to the garage would be a 20 feet by 40 feet area for office/shop uses.

Groomers would come off a lower section of the new lift 9B and onto the upper section of the existing work road. Snowmaking will be added to the section of the work road leading up to the garage. A new fuel tank will be located adjacent to the snow covered work road. Groomers would then proceed up to the garage building. When exiting the building and going on-mountain, groomers would take the other existing work road, which will have snowmaking, onto the Sunway Trail.

5. Bike Trail - Single track bike loop for Town trail at top of Little Gore

See **Figure** 10, Existing and Proposed Hiking and Mountain Bike Trails (North). Currently there is a mountain bike trail located on Ski Bowl property that switches back between the Oak Ridge and Moxham trails. The trail currently extends just a short distance onto the Intensive Use Area where it ends where it meets the Schaeffer hiking trail. It is proposed that a single track trail be provided from where the trail currently ends to the top of Lift 12 (the 46er lift). As shown on **Figure** 10, the trail would generally follow the route of the Oak Ridge Trail, switching back a number of times including some crossings of the Oak Ridge Trail as well as the upper part of the Moxham Trail.

6. Vehicle Access-modify 1995 UMP-approved shuttle lane separated from and independent of main traffic circulation route and parking

Figure 32 of the 1995 UMP included a plan for a shuttle path that started at the lower parking lots, ran to the west of the entry road and parking, and had a circular drop-off at the Northwoods Lodge.

The 1995 plan has been modified and is shown on **Figure** 26, Shuttle Lane Plan. A two way shuttle lane, separate from general traffic would begin along the section of the access road that is widened and allows for parallel parking along the access road. The shuttle lane would then loop through Lot G, cross the access road, parallel the east side of the road, pass through Lot E , and then continue past Lot D and Lot A to a drop-off and turnaround at the Main Base Lodge. This modified shuttle plan also includes optional loops into Lot B and into Lot F for less busy days when the shuttle does not need to return to the starting point as quickly.

Designated pick up/drop off points will be established along the separated shuttle lane in order increase shuttle efficiency. Shuttle stop locations will be clearly identified through simple signage. Related amenities such as ski racks and/or shelters may be installed at shuttle stop locations. Shuttle stops may be equipped with call buttons linked to the shuttle vehicles to alert shuttle drivers to waiting skiers.

7. Land reclassification involving Gore Mountain Intensive Use Area, Vanderwhacker Mountain Wild Forest and Siamese Ponds Wilderness Area which could allow the historic Rabbit Pond trail to be reclaimed and used winter and summer

See **Figure** 27, Land Reclassification Map. This UMP Amendment proposes that 33 acres in the Gore Mountain Intensive Use Area becomes part of the abutting Siamese Pond Wilderness Area. In addition, 159 acres of Vanderwhacker Mountain Wild Forest would be added to the Gore Mountain Intensive Use Area. This land reclassification would require an APA process separate from this UMP.

The Adirondack Park Agency cannot find that a UMP Amendment proposing management actions on lands to be reclassified conforms to the APSLMP before the land is reclassified. First, the Agency must receive a request to reclassify, accompanied by a UMP for the proposed Intensive Use lands. The Agency must follow SEQRA regulations regarding public notice and comment and must hold hearings inside and outside the Adirondack Park on the request to reclassify, pursuant to the APSLMP. After notice, comment and hearings, the reclassification proposals would be presented to the Agency for a recommendation to the Governor for approval of the classification. The process culminates in the Governor's action on that

recommendation. This UMP Amendment does not assume that a reclassification request will be approved and does not authorize any actions on lands to be reclassified, based on a proposed future classification. The actual request for reclassification and a UMP Amendment for those actions on the lands proposed for reclassification would be presented separately from this UMP Amendment. Discussion of actions on those lands in this is conceptual only, and those actions cannot be authorized by this UMP Amendment.

Intensive Use Area to Wilderness Area

The lands on the top of Gore Mountain that would go into the Siamese Ponds Wilderness are at elevations 2,785 to 3,585 feet and are predominantly mountain spruce-fir forest with some beech-maple mesic forest at the lower elevations. This area is part of the Adirondack Sub Alpine Forest Bird Conservation Area and the dense subalpine coniferous forest is favored by Bicknell's thrush and other neotropical bird species.

Wild Forest to Intensive Use Area

There are trails in the vicinity of Rabbit Pond (Roaring Brook, Rabbit and Oak Ridge trails) that were presumably built in connection with ski use of Little Gore, perhaps as early as the 1920's (Vanderwhacker Mountain Wild Forest (VMWF) UMP, 2005). In the middle of the twentieth century, a network of ski trails was operated on and around Gore Mountain and Peter Gay Mountain on state and private land. Some of these trails on private land were eventually closed, and other became part of Little Gore (also known as North Creek Ski Bowl) (Ibid.). A Management Action proposed in the 2005 VMWF UMP involved the construction of the Raymond Brook nordic ski trail that would connect a new trailhead off of NY Route 28 with trails in the Siamese Pond Wilderness Area. See **Appendix** 6 for text and map excerpts from the 2005 VMWF UMP. This trail has been constructed.

This UMP management action also included: "If an agreement can be reached with the neighboring private owner(s), a short trail will connect from Forest Preserve to existing ski trails on Little Gore (see map). The Town of Johnsburg has indicated that they have arranged for permission to cut and mark ski/hiking trails from the North Creek Ski Bowl across this private land to the state boundary." This connection (Ski Bowl Connection) has also been constructed.

ORDA has been long time proponent of making a strong connection between the IUA and North Creek. ORDA's dedication to strengthening this connection is evidenced by past and present UMP Management Actions to link Gore Mountain, the Ski Bowl and North Creek.

See **Figure** 2, 2018~~7~~ New Management Actions (North), Adding the area around Rabbit Pond into the Gore Mountain Intensive Use Area would provide the opportunity for ORDA to construct a ski lift from the base of the Ski Bowl to a point high enough on Little Gore that

would allow skiers to ski to the west to the Rabbit Pond Trail, ski on a section of the Rabbit Pond Trail and then tie into trails that return to the base of the Ski Bowl. This ski connection would make use of currently approved, but not yet constructed ski trails on Town of Johnsburg lands. The connection would also require some new sections of trail on private lands that would need to get subdivided out of the private lands and transferring these lands to the Town of Johnsburg. A similar transfer of lands to the Town would be required for the upper portion of the lift that is located on currently private lands. See **Figure** 2. The owner of these private lands has indicated to ORDA their willingness to convey these lands to the Town.

APSLMP Intensive Use Area Guidelines

The following 10 numbered items and the language that follows them demonstrate how the suggested reclassification of existing lands from Wild Forest to Intensive Use Area comply with the 10 applicable Intensive Use Area guidelines in the APSLMP.

1. *The primary management guideline for Intensive Use Areas will be to provide the public opportunities for family group camping, developed swimming and boating, downhill skiing, cross country skiing under competitive or developed conditions on improved cross country ski trails, visitor information and similar outdoor recreational pursuits in a setting and on a scale that are in harmony with the relatively wild and undeveloped character of the Adirondack Park.*

The proposed reclassification will provide public opportunities for downhill skiing, cross country skiing under competitive or developed conditions on improved cross country skill trails in a setting and on a scale that are harmony with the relatively wild and undeveloped character of the Adirondack Park.

The involved lands are currently on outer edge of the VMWF in close proximity to the hamlet of North Creek. The involved lands have contained ski trails dating back to the 1940s and possibly as far back as the 1920's. The involved lands are bounded on three sides by ski area development from the Gore Mountain Ski Area and the Town of Johnsburg Ski Bowl Park.

The possible activities involve installing a chairlift that would roughly parallel an existing Ski Bowl Chair lift and terminate at its top, just inside of the new Intensive Use Area lands. Potential ski trails in the additional Intensive Use Area would extend to from the upper lift terminal to a portion of the historic Rabbit Pond Trail. The remaining western portion of the Rabbit Pond trail in the Intensive Use Area would be actively maintained for cross country skiing and hiking.

2. *All intensive use facilities should be located, designed and managed so as to blend with the Adirondack environment and to have the minimum adverse impact possible on surrounding state lands and nearby private holdings. They will not be situated where they will aggravate problems on lands already subject to or threatened by overuse, such as the eastern portion of the High Peaks Wilderness, the Pharaoh Lake Wilderness or the St. Regis Canoe Area or where they will have a negative impact on competing private facilities. Such facilities will be adjacent to or serviceable from existing public road systems or water bodies open to motorboat use within the Park.*

The reclassification would result in an addition to an existing Intensive Use Area that is compatible with the character of the Adirondack environment and surrounding land uses. The suggested reclassification is not in the vicinity of areas of potential overuse, including the aforementioned units.

3. *Construction and development activities in Intensive Use Areas will:*
   - *minimize extensive topographic alterations;*
   - *limit vegetative clearing; and,*
   - *preserve the scenic, natural and open space resources of the Intensive Use Area.*

Minimal topographic alteration would be required to construct the upper lift terminal and possibly a lift tower or two below the upper terminal. Limited alpine trail construction would follow existing fall lines and would require minimal topographic alteration.

Vegetative clearing would be limited to only that needed to construct the lift and limited alpine trails. The cross country ski/hiking trail would just require brushing and blowdown removal from the historic Rabbit Pond trail.

Only the very eastern edge of the Intensive Use Area lands would experience any disturbance.

4. *Day use areas will not provide for overnight camping or other overnight accommodations for the public.*

No overnight accommodations, including camping would occur.

5. *Priority should be given to the rehabilitation and modernization of existing Intensive Use Areas and the complete development of partially developed existing Intensive Use Areas before the construction of new facilities is considered.*

The action would involve the slight expansion of an existing Intensive Use Area into an area that has historically been used for skiing. The action promotes the ongoing goal of providing for a better connection between the Intensive Use Area and North Creek.

6. *Additions to the intensive use category should come either from new acquisitions or from the reclassification of appropriate wild forest areas, and only in exceptional circumstances from wilderness, primitive or canoe areas.*

The suggested addition would come from the reclassification of a small outlying area of the VMWF.

7. *Any request for classification of a new acquisition or reclassification of existing lands from another land use category to an Intensive Use Area will be accompanied by a draft unit management plan for the proposed Intensive Use Area that will demonstrate how the applicable guidelines will be respected.*

The 10 applicable guidelines are being evaluated in this 2018~~7~~ UMP Amendment for the Gore Mountain Intensive Use Area.

8. *No new structures or improvements at any Intensive Use Area will be constructed except in conformity with a final adopted unit management plan for such area. This guideline will not prevent the ordinary maintenance, rehabilitation or minor relocation of conforming structures or improvements.*

The only structures being contemplated in this UMP Amendment are the upper lift terminal and possibly a lift tower or two below the terminal. Likewise, the only other improvements being considered are some limited amounts of alpine ski trail to connect with previously approved ski trails at the North Creek Ski Bowl.

9. *Since the concentrations of visitors at certain intensive use facilities often pose a threat of water pollution, the state should set an example for the private sector by installing modern sewage treatment systems with the objective of maintaining high water quality. Standards for the state should in no case be less than those for the private sector and in all cases any pit privy, leach field or seepage pit will be at least 150 feet from the mean high water mark of any lake, pond, river or stream.*

No sewage treatment systems would be proposed.

10. *Any new, reconstructed or relocated buildings or structures located on shorelines of lakes, ponds, rivers or major streams, other than docks, primitive tent sites not a part of a campground (which will be governed by the general guidelines for such sites set forth elsewhere in this master plan) boat launching sites, fishing and waterway access sites, boathouses, and similar water related facilities, will be set back a minimum of 150 feet from the mean high water mark and will be located so as to be reasonably screened from the water body to avoid intruding on the natural character of the shoreline and the public enjoyment and use thereof.*

The only involved shoreline is that of Rabbit Pond. The nearest structure would be the upper lift terminal located over 1,000 feet from the shoreline of Rabbit Pond.

8. Rabbit Pond Trail Activities

As shown on **Figure** 2, 2018~~7~~ New Management Actions (North), a new ski trail is proposed along +/- ~~250~~600 feet ~~section~~ of the existing Rabbit Pond Trail.

The Rabbit Pond Trail was among the early ski trails created in the North Creek/North River area in the 1930's and 1940's. A circa 1940's map entitled "Precise Ski Data of North Creek, N.Y., A Stone's Throw from Train to Tow" (see Figure 27A) shows the intermediate Rabbit Pond Trail located at the "Village Slopes". The trail and Rabbit Pond itself also appear on the 1958 USGS map of the area shown on Figure 27B.

Figure 27C shows the current mapping of the Rabbit Pond Trail, the 1958 USGS mapping of the Rabbit Pond Trail and the UMP-proposed ski trail. Mapping of the current Rabbit Pond Trail on Figure 27C was produced from GPS data collected by Wilderness Property Management Inc. (Steve Ovitt) and mapped by Warren County GIS Department (Ski Bowl Park 2017 Smart Growth Grant Long Trail to Little Gore Summit). Approximately 600 feet of the existing Rabbit Pond Trail would be within or very near the proposed ski trail.

Figure 27D shows how this section of the existing Rabbit Pond Trail could be easily relocated slightly to the north and away from the proposed ski trail where it would pass over terrain similar to what is currently crossed. Figure 27D shows the area within which the trail could be relocated. ORDA will work with NYSDEC, Steve Ovitt and members of the local hiking and backcountry skiing community to select the best Rabbit Pond Trail location within this area, including a location that provides adequate setbacks from the proposed ski trail.

Creation of the alpine trail and relocation of the section of Rabbit Pond Trail are not anticipated to cause any significant adverse impacts to the ecology of Rabbit Pond. Water quality within the pond will not be impacted. Data in previous UMP's have demonstrated that creation of ski trails in previously wooded areas do not impact nutrient and solids levels in nearby receiving waters. Data in previous UMP's have also demonstrated that snowmaking within a drainage basin does not significantly alter rates of stormwater runoff. The pond itself will not be physically affected. The mapping in Figure 4 shows that both the ski trail and the hiking trail will be no closer to the pond than what currently exists.

From the overall perspective of the attractiveness of the area's backcountry character and the benefits that are derived therefrom, ORDA believes that the relocation of +/- 600 feet of one trail within a network that consists of miles of interconnected trails will not cause a significant impact. ORDA believes that the proposed conceptual action will not cause significant economic

or experiential issues.

~~would be converted to and maintained as an alpine ski trail. The section of alpine ski trail would have snowmaking and would be groomed. The section of existing trail would need to be widened to accommodate grooming equipment. This same section of trail would be available for hiking and mountain biking during the non-ski season.~~

~~The section of Rabbit Pond Trail between Rabbit Pond and the connection with the Schaeffer trail would be brushed and blowdowns removed as needed for use as a cross country ski trail in winter. In summer, this section of the Rabbit Pond Trail would be available for mountain biking. At its western end the Rabbit Pond Trail intersects with the Schaeffer Trail that originates in the Ski Bowl Town Park and continues to the summit of Gore Mountain. The Schaeffer trail is currently for hiking only which currently limits the utility of the Rabbit Pond Trail for cross country skiing as an out and back trail.~~

B. Projected Use

As per attendance figures previously provided in Section 2, ticketed and passholder ski visits are expected to fluctuate around the 215,200 per year average.

Peak day attendance is expected to range from 5,000 to 6,000 ski visits with peak day attendance over 7,000 being possible. President's Day weekend is expected to be the most likely time of peak day attendance.

Off-season visits for things such as mountain biking, gondola rides, hiking etc. are expected to average 11,000 per year.

C. Actions Approved in Previous UMP/EIS which are Part of the Foregoing 5-year Plan

Table 1 in Section 1 previously presented an accounting of management actions from previous UMP/EIS documents. Included in this accounting were categories for previously approved management actions that are partially completed and management actions that were approved and for which construction is pending.

These categories include the following which will continue to be part of the foregoing 5-year plan.

- Continued trail development
- Ongoing trail widening
- Lift improvements

- Lodge improvements and expansion
- Parking development
- Snowmaking modernization/improvements
- Continued infrastructure and energy efficiency improvements
- Continue to develop/improve compatible recreation amenities and public access
- Continue to develop/improve strong connections between Gore, the Ski Bowl and North Creek

D. Prioritization of Management Actions

The following is a listing of new management actions by priority.

Top Priority

- Replace and relocate Sunway Lift
- Add new lift from Northwoods Lodge to Lower Sunway
- Widen Sunway and other green trails served by these lifts
- Snowmaking - enlarge snowmaking reservoir
- Dedicated shuttle circulation

Moderate Priority

- Reconfigure groomer garage and fueling

Lower Priority

- Expand NYSEF building
- Single track bike loop on Little Gore

SECTION V POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

A. Physical Resources

1. Geology

Bedrock is at or near the ground surface in many locations in the Gore Mountain Intensive Use Area.

Bedrock may be encountered when constructing a portion of the dedicated shuttle lane. There is an area of Lyman-Rock Outcrop soils between parking lot E and the base lodge. It may be necessary to blast some bedrock to create the shuttle lane through this area. It is also possible that blasting may be necessary as part of some of the trail creation or trail widening management actions. Bedrock may also be encountered when enlarging the snowmaking reservoir which could also necessitate blasting. Hermon-Lyman-Rock Outcrop soils are mapped on the north and south sides of the reservoir.

As described previously in Section 2, the landform that is Gore Mountain, including the Barton garnet mine that is located on the north side of the mountain, is considered a unique geologic feature (http://www.dec.ny.gov/permits/53858.html). These deposits will not be affected by the construction activities associated with the shuttle lane or the snowmaking reservoir which are both located at low elevations on the mountain.

Mitigation Measures

ORDA will employ the services of a professional, licensed and insured blasting company to perform any needed blasting. Blasters in New York State are required to possess a valid NY State Department of Labor issued Explosive License and Blaster Certificate of Competence. The Explosives License permits the licensee to purchase, own, possess or transport explosives. The Blaster Certificate of Competence permits the use of explosives.

If it is determined that blasting will be required, a written blasting plan will be developed and approved prior to the commencement of blasting. In general, the blast plan will contain information about the blasting methods to be employed, measures to be taken to protect the safety of the public, and how the applicable rules and regulations will be complied with. If, during the evolution of the project, there are significant changes in the blast design a new blast plan will be required. A test shot will be required for the first shot after the approval of each blast plan.

While each blast plan is tailored to meet the specific needs of a particular project, they all contain certain elements. Typically the general information provided will include: the blasting contractor; the project blaster; locations of blasting; the duration of blasting operations;

locations of offsite receptors; location of any nearby utilities; the drill hole pattern; the explosives and detonation systems to be employed; the proposed loading of the holes; the maximum weight of explosives to be detonated in any delay period; measures to be taken to minimize the offsite impacts of blasting; traffic control and warning signs; the sequence and type of blasting warning signals; location of seismographs to monitor blast induced vibrations; what, if any local permits are required; will pre-blast surveys be performed, and if so where; and other information as necessary.

In addition, prior to the commencement of blasting, a pre-blast meeting will be held with the blaster, project manager, and other interested parties.

A record of each blast should be made by the blaster, and a copy provided to and retained by the project, which contains at a minimum the following information:

- Name of the operator and/or contractor conducting the blast.
- The location, date and time of the blast.
- Name, signature and identification number of the blaster (certificate of competency number, as issued by the Department of Labor).
- Type of material to be blasted.
- Diagram of shot including number of holes, depth of holes, diameter of holes, burden, spacing, and face orientation.
- Location and distance of nearest non-company owned structure.
- A record of the shot including amount of subdrilling, decking, stemming height and type, quantity and type of explosive, quantity and type of detonator, weather conditions (including wind speed and direction), type of initiation system and all delay periods progressively, in milliseconds. A drill log reviewed and signed by the licensed blaster and company supervisor including date, time, location, shot number, number of holes, hole depth, average face height, burden, spacing, diameter and any potential problem areas such as seams, cracks, voids and water.

The following techniques and control measures will be considered in blast design to reduce ground vibration:

- Adjusting the blast hole pattern
- Reducing the pounds of explosive per delay:
    - use of smaller diameter blast holes
    - reduce bench height
    - use of decking
- Avoiding overly confined charges (e.g. excessive burden).
- Avoiding excessive subdrilling.

- Strict control over spacing and orientation of blast holes.
- Borehole deviation monitoring.
- If possible, designing the blast sequence to direct vibration away from structures of concern.

A properly designed blast will give lower vibrations per pound of explosive. Close to the blast, the ground vibration character is affected by factors of blast design and rock geometry, particularly charge weight per delay, delay interval, and to some extent direction of initiation, burden, and spacing.

Additionally, to reduce the public's concern regarding ground vibrations:

- Blasts will be scheduled for the same time of day whenever possible.
- Blasts will be scheduled for periods of high local activity.
- Blasts will not be scheduled for quiet periods.
- Neighbors will be notified of the blast schedule in advance.

2. Soils

Potential Impacts

Soil Erodability (K) Factors were discussed previously in Section2.A.1.b. "K" is one factor used to calculate potential soil loss using the Revised Universal Soil Loss Equation (RUSLE). Other factors in RUSLE include slope length (L) and slope steepness (S).

See **Figure** 28, Soils Map and Management Actions.

Construction of most new Management Actions are proposed on soils with an "E" slope category. E soils are described as steep. Some new management actions are proposed on soils with a "C" slope category. C soils are described as sloping (Soils Survey of Warren County, 1989)

Disturbance of areas of steep slopes during construction can lead to an increased vulnerability of the soils to erosion. Suitable measures must be implemented to first prevent soil erosion and then second to make sure that any soils that are eroded are contained and prevented from causing sedimentation in receiving waters.

ORDA will implement proper erosion and sediment control practices when undertaking construction practices at their venues that oftentimes involve construction on steep slopes. These proper practices are set forth in the *New York State Standards and Specifications for Erosion and Sediment Control* (last updated November 2016). These standards and specifications will be used to develop Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plans (SWPPPs) for construction activities in accordance with NYSDEC's *SPDES General Permit for Stormwater Discharge from Construction Activity, GP-0-15-002.*

SWPPPS will detail those measures that will be implemented during construction to mitigate potential soil erosion and surface water sedimentation. SWPPP content will include such things as construction sequencing and phasing, temporary and permanent stabilization, structural erosion control practices and vegetative control practices. SWPPPs will include provisions for monitoring, inspections, data collection, and compliance documentation.

Mitigation measures that ORDA commonly and successfully employs during ski area construction activities include the following that will be incorporated into pre-construction SWPPP plans and specifications.

Mitigation Measures

Construction Road Stabilization – site access will be achieved using existing work roads, ski trails, driveways and parking areas. At this time, no new disturbance is anticipated for site access, material storage areas or other construction uses.

Concrete Washout – Concrete truck washouts will be provided in existing parking areas located in proximity to the Base Area.

Protecting Vegetation to Remain – clearing limits will be marked with flagging tape, paint or other suitable means prior to the felling of trees for lift line and ski trail construction. ORDA is particularly sensitive to adhering to clearing limits on the Forest Preserve lands on which they operate their venues.

Runoff Control

- **Water Bars** – Water bars shall be installed during construction of the ski slopes and lift lines. They are to be placed across the slope to reduce the potential for erosion, with diversion into stable vegetated areas or other stabilized outlet. All water bars shall be installed at a 2% slope and particular attention shall be paid to proper spacing specifications as follows:

Slope (%)	Water Bar Spacing (ft.)
<5	125
5 to 10	100
10 to 20	75
20 to 35	50
>35	25

(Source: New York State Standards and Specifications for Erosion and Sediment Control, 2016)

Rock outlet protection using construction-generated rock will be installed at the ends of water bars when natural areas appear not to be adequate.

- **Trench Plugs** – Sand bags or gravel bags will be employed in open utility trenches longer than 300 feet. Compost filter socks of suitable size are an acceptable alternative to sand bags or gravel bags.

Soil Stabilization

- **Temporary Seeding** - Seed and mulch inactive areas with bare soil within 3 days of disturbance unless construction will resume in that area within 2 days. Seed with annual rye mixture at 30 pounds per acre**.** For late fall or early winter seeding seed with winter rye at a rate of 100 pounds per acre. Mulch areas with straw at a rate of 2 tons per acre.

- **Permanent Seeding and Mulching** - Maintain existing vegetation outside of marked limits of disturbance. Soils disturbed for construction of ski trails and lifts shall be permanently stabilized by successfully establishing an herbaceous ground cover.

  Seeding – A commercially available native seed mixture appropriate to the climate shall be used to stabilize disturbed areas to be re-vegetated. Seed may be applied by a number of suitable means including broadcasting, hydro-seeding, or incorporated as part of a geotextile (i.e. Green & Bio Tech SureTurf 1000 and 4000 Seeded Mat System ®, BIOMAT ® seeded mats).

  Mulching – Broadcast seeded areas shall also be mulched. Broadcast seeded areas shall be mulched with invasive species free hay or straw at a rate of 2 to 3 bales per thousand square feet (100-120 bales per acre). Mulch shall be secured in place by either driving over the mulched area with a tracked vehicle or by applying a non-asphaltic tackifier.

  Hydro-seeded areas shall contain a mix of wood cellulose mulch applied during the hydro-seeding process. Wood cellulose mulch shall be applied at a rate of 35 pounds per thousand square feet (2,000 pounds per acre). A non-asphaltic tackifier will be included with the hydro-mulch application.

Soil Restoration

As directed by the Qualified Inspector, areas of compacted soils that are to be seeded should be restored to improve the quality of the seed bed. The top four (4) to six (6) inches of soil shall be loosened using hand or mechanical means prior to applying seed. Also, as directed by the Qualified Inspector, finished grades consisting of exposed subsoils may require soil amendment or topsoil in order to provide a suitable seed bed.

Sediment Control

- **Silt Fence** – Where appropriate, silt fence (standard or reinforced) shall be installed along topographic contours. Use of silt fence is appropriate where there is no concentration of water flowing to the barrier and where the drainage area for overland flow does not exceed ½ acre per 100 feet of fence. Additionally, maximum allowable slope lengths contributing runoff to a silt fence shall be as follows:

Slope Steepness	Standard Maximum Slope Length (ft.)	Reinforced Maximum Slope Length (ft.)
<50:1	300	N/A
50:1 to 10:1	125	250
10:1 to 5:1	100	150
5:1 to 3:1	60	80
3:1 to 2:1	40	70
>2:1	20	30

(Source: New York State Standards and Specifications for Erosion and Sediment Control, 2016)

  - Silt fence structures should be installed anywhere sediment retention is needed in and around a construction site.
  - Perpendicular to slopes or parallel to contour.
  - At the toe of highly erodible slopes.
  - Around culverts and storm water drainage systems.
  - Adjacent to lakes, streams or creeks.

  Maintenance – Silt fences should be inspected periodically for damages such as tearing by equipment, animals, or wind and for the amount of sediment which has accumulated. Removal of the sediment is generally necessary when it reaches 1/3 the height of the silt fence. In situations where access is available, machinery can be used; otherwise, it must be removed manually. The key elements to remember are:

- The sediment deposits should be removed when heavy rain or high water is anticipated.
- The sediment removed should be placed in an area where there is no danger of erosion.
- The silt fence should not be removed until adequate vegetation ensures no further erosion of the disturbed slopes. Generally, the fabric is cut at ground level, the wire and posts removed, the sediment spread, and seeding and mulch is applied immediately.

  Reinforced silt fence should be installed at the base of temporary stockpiles. The reinforced silt fence is designed to hold heavier loads. Falling debris from stockpiles may be caught by the reinforced silt fence where standard silt fence could fail.

- **Straw Bale Dikes** – Straw bale dikes may be used as a substitute for silt fence ONLY where shallow depth to rock precludes the proper installation of silt fence. Straw bale dikes shall NOT be used where there is concentrated flow. Straw bale dikes shall NOT be used where more than 3 months of erosion and sediment control is required unless bales are replaced or an additional parallel row of bales is installed prior to the original straw bales being in place for 3 months. Length of slope above the straw bale dike shall not exceed the following:

Slope Steepness	Maximum Slope Length (ft.)
2:1	25
3:1	50
4:1	75

(Source: New York State Standards and Specifications for Erosion and Sediment Control, 2016)

Straw bale dikes require more maintenance and degrade much more rapidly. Straw bale dikes offer a more standalone practice that may be less dependent on the required staking. Staking is required for both silt fence and straw bale dikes. Both practices are require to be buried in the ground, although silt fence is required a six inch burial as opposed to a four inch burial trench for straw bale dikes. If neither application is applicable, sediment may be captured by using aproned Triangular Silt Dikes.

Installation specifications:

- Each bale shall be embedded in the soil a minimum of 4 inches.
- Bales shall be placed in a row with ends tightly abutting the adjacent bales.
- Bales shall be securely anchored in place by stakes driven through the bales. The first stake in each bale shall be driven toward the previously laid bale to force bales together.
- Inspection shall be frequent and repair or replacement shall be made promptly as needed.

Ski Trail Construction

Erosion and sediment control practices for trail construction will be conducted similarly as it has been done in previous trail construction projects with much success. ORDA staff is experienced in ski trail and lift construction including erosion control techniques. They will use the following measures to mitigate the potential impacts of trail construction.

- Limit individual disturbance areas to less or equal to 1 acre at any time.

- Tree trunks will be removed and used on site either as part of trail construction or cut up and used for firewood.
- Logs will be used on constructed trails to create cribbing to help stabilize the down gradient slope.
- Where possible, tree stumps will be cut flush to the ground to minimize the impact to the existing root systems and to allow the quick establishment of vegetation. Emphasis to minimize cutting, filling and grubbing operations on slopes over 25 percent will be made.
- Grubbed stumps will be buried within the trail as part of trail construction (filling low spots, etc.)
- Branches and tops will be chipped with chips broadcast into adjoining wooded areas. Chip piles shall not be created in wooded areas.
- Install sediment and erosion control practices.
- On constructed trails, which involved cut/fill operations, exposed earth areas will be contained by diverting clean runoff from the uphill side with water bars as much as practicable.
- Silt fence and/or chip berms on the downhill side will be utilized to filter the runoff from the raw site.
- During final grading, all water bars will be repaired in order to effectively intercept and divert water from new trails and lift areas.
- Areas where finish grade has been established will be seeded and mulched within 3 days. No areas shall be left with raw earth exposed for more than 7 days.

Lift Terminals Construction

Lift terminal construction is located in flat to low slope areas and are limited to approximately ¼ acre in size. E&SC practices include silt fence, upgradient water bars, and vegetative stabilization. RECP will be installed on the graded outruns of the upper lift terminals.

Lift Line Construction

The scope of lift line construction operations is similar, but less intense, than most trail clearing operations. Construction of the lift line corridors will involve:

- Cutting trees to provide a 60 feet wide area with sufficient clearance.
- Stumps are cut flush to the ground.
- Grading operations are limited to the areas immediately around lift tower footings and where vehicle access is required. In these locations E&SC practices include silt fence, upgradient water bars, and vegetative stabilization.
- Ground cover vegetation will be undisturbed to the extent possible.

- Areas requiring site disturbance will be stabilized using practices described above.
- Wooded areas which are cut will be allowed to naturally fill in with brushy type growth where no ski trails or service driveways are to be created.

Linear Utilities

Linear utilities include underground water pipe, air lines, and electric lines. Erosion from pipeline construction will be minimized by limiting the length of the open trench to 1200' for a period not to exceed 10 days. Sand or gravel bags trench plugs will be placed in sloped trenches at a minimum of 300' intervals to slow the velocity of stormwater runoff that may enter the trench.

Areas where finish grade has been established will be seeded and mulched within 3 days. No areas shall be left with raw earth exposed for more than 10 days.

3. Topography and Slope

Potential Impacts

See **Figure** 29, Topography and Management Actions.

Very limited grading is required for new ski trails, trail widening or ski lifts. Trails are laid out to follow natural fall lines. Lift grading is limited to the upper and lower terminals and at the tower foundations.

Grading will be required to create the building pad for the groomer garage as well as for sections of the shuttle lane. See **Figure** 14 Master Plan – Approved and Proposed Actions (Base Lodge) and **Figure** 26, Shuttle Lane Plan.

Significant grading (excavation) is proposed for the enlargement of the snowmaking reservoir.

Impacts associated with grading involve erosion and sediment control (see the previous section) and protection of water resources (see the following sections).

Mitigation Measures

No mitigation measures beyond those described in the previous section and in the following section are required.

4. Water Resources

Potential Impacts

See **Figure** 30, Surface Water, Wetland Resources, and Proposed Actions.

Identified potential impacts to surface water are (1) sedimentation of eroded soils, (2) increased stormwater runoff with accompanying loadings (nutrients, dissolved solids, etc.), and (3) exposure of disturbed soils in the snowmaking reservoir expansion area along with separating clean inflow waters from the active construction areas during reservoir excavation.

Mitigation Measures

Those measures that will be implemented to prevent erosion and subsequent sedimentation were described previously in the Soils section.

The new management actions include only two actions that will introduce significant amounts of new impervious surfaces that will increase stormwater runoff. These are the new groomer garage and those portions of the shuttle lane that will be outside of existing parking areas and drives. A Stormwater Management Report has been prepared for these two actions. See **Appendix** 7.

The Project has been designed in accordance with Chapter 4 of the NYSDEC Stormwater Management Design Manual (SWMDM), and NYSDEC's General Permit GP-0-15-002 for construction activities. Stormwater calculations were performed utilizing widely accepted engineering methodologies, including TR-55, and the stormwater modeling computer program HydroCAD (version 10.00) produced by HydroCAD Software Solutions, LLC.

Under the watershed's proposed condition, all stormwater from the Project will continue to discharge to the same point as in the existing condition (Analysis Points 1 & 2). The total watershed has generally remained unchanged, as is shown on the drawing "W-2 Proposed Conditions Watershed Map" contained in **Appendix** 7. To meet NYSDEC requirements (see Section 5.0 NYSDEC Design Criteria in **Appendix** 7) a bioretention basin and wet swale have been incorporated into the stormwater management design to mitigate the quality and quantity of stormwater runoff discharged from the Project Site.

For the snowmaking reservoir expansion, see **Figure** 31, Snowmaking Reservoir Construction Sequencing. First the reservoir will be fully drained. See the photo below.

Mostly drained snowmaking reservoir September 9, 2017

Once the reservoir is drained a haul road stabilized outlet will be created in the southeast corner of the reservoir where remnants of a haul road currently exist. Next, a rip rap stream channel will be constructed to convey water from the main reservoir stream inlet to the outlet structure. The intent is to isolate and pass through reservoir inflow from the inlet while the reservoir is being excavated. Two 24 foot wide haul roads would then be constructed in order to remove excavated materials from the north and south ends of the reservoir. Excavation work will proceed from west to east. Once excavation is complete, the outlet valve will be closed and the reservoir will be allowed to gradually fill. This gradual filling should allow for the settling of solids that become suspended during pond refilling. Exposed soils will be mostly fine sands that will tend not to stay in suspension as compared to silts or clays.

5. Wetlands

Potential Impacts

None of the new management actions proposed in the ~~Draft~~ UMP Amendment will impact wetlands. Avoidance of wetland impacts in the areas of the grooming garage, the shuttle lane and the snowmaking reservoir was accomplished by field evaluation for the presence of wetlands and then designing these components to avoid wetlands. Periphery wetlands at the snowmaking reservoir will experience temporary hydrological alteration when the reservoir is emptied. This will not significantly impact wetlands since the effects will be temporary and since these wetlands have persisted when the reservoir has regularly been emptied in the past for inspection and maintenance purposes. Additional information regarding wetland avoidance can be found in Section 6, Alternatives.

Mitigation Measures

No significant adverse impacts have been identified, therefore, no mitigation measures are required.

6. Air Quality and Climate

Potential Impacts

No new permanent sources of air emissions are proposed as part of this UMP.

Gore Mountain Ski Center has a current NYSDEC Air Quality Permit for which they are compliant.

Construction activities that can take place after this UMP amendment is adopted may result in localized increases in dust levels. However, areas of proposed construction are located within the interior of the Intensive Use Areas, so no offsite areas will be affected.

Many ORDA venues exist within the boundaries of State protected lands and the impact of climate change on our environment is recognized. ORDA will be a leader in environmental stewardship with consistent commitment to sustainability, responsible development practices, and continuous communication with DEC, APA, and other regulatory agencies to ensure we are taking the appropriate measures.

Mitigation Measures

No significant adverse impacts have been identified, therefore, no mitigative measures are necessary.

B. Biological Resources

1. Vegetation

Potential Impacts

See **Figure** 32, Vegetation and Management Actions.

Tree clearing associated with the new management actions includes 18.1 acres for downhill ski trails (9.4 on the current Intensive Use Area lands and 8.7 acres in the lands that would be added from the VMWF reclassification), 9.2 acres for trail widening, 3.1 acres for ski lifts, 0.8 acres for the groomer garage, and 6.5 acres for the shuttle lane. An area around maintenance and Lifts 9A and 9B previously approved in 1995 is no longer proposed. The 7.3 acres of clearing in this area is no longer proposed.

Appendix 8 contains an accounting of the numbers of trees proposed to be cut. These data are summarized in **Table** 7 below.

Table 7
Tree Cutting by Location and Community Type

Location	Community	Action(s)	Acreage	Total Trees
Gore Mtn IUA	B (mixed hardwood)	Burnt Ridge Trail (partial)	4.2	1,565
Gore Mtn IUA	E (mixed hardwood)	Burnt Ridge Trail (partial) + Trails 11A, 1N-P	6.9	4,447
Gore Mtn IUA	Q (pioneer hardwood)	Twister Widening	1.1	415
Gore Mtn IUA	P (northern hardwood)	Various	15.4	3315
			SUBTOTAL	**9,742**
Land Reclassif.	E (mixed hardwood)	Lift 12 and Trails 12	10.2	6,574
			TOTAL	**16,316**

A total of 9,742 trees are proposed to be cut on lands that are currently classified as Intensive Use Area. Approximately 25% of these will be 3-4"dbh and the remainder will be >4" dbh. (Gore Mountain UMP documents, starting with the 1995 Update and Amendment (Appendix 21), have used the 3-4" and >4" breakdown of trees to be cut.)

Activities shown on lands that could get added to the Intensive Use Area from VMWF would require the cutting of 6,574 trees. Approximately 44% of these would be 3-4"dbh and the remainder would be >4" dbh.

To put these tree cutting numbers in perspective, the total amount of lands affected in the table above is 10.2 acres in the intensive use area which totals approximately 3,755 acres. The amount of affected land is less than 1% (0.7%).

There is no tree cutting proposed above 2,800 feet in elevation or in any areas of Mountain Spruce-fir forest.

All tree cutting will be done in compliance with the DEC tree cutting policy LF-91-2.

No rare, threatened or endangered plant species will be impacted.

Mitigation Measures

Only areas absolutely necessary for construction of ski trails, ski lifts, and other proposed improvements will be cleared of vegetation. All other areas will be maintained in a natural state.

Erosion control measures will be used on cleared areas with disturbed soils to avoid affecting adjacent vegetation by erosion or siltation. Erosion-control devices to be used will include filter fabric fences and staked straw bale filters.

Upon the completion of clearing of new ski trails and ski lift corridors, they will be seeded with grass mixtures to promote rapid revegetation. Areas disturbed for any other improvements will also be landscaped and revegetated as soon as practicable.

Plants used to revegetate disturbed areas and planted as part of landscaping will be species which are indigenous to the region.

No clear-cutting of trees to develop panoramic views is proposed. Views will be framed or filtered by existing vegetation.

Continue to train staff working at Gore Mountain unit to identify and document the location of key invasive plant species.

Work towards a complete comprehensive inventory of the presence and extent of invasive plants in the unit.

Eliminate any identified populations of invasive plant species that are discovered in the unit. These actions may be carried out by DEC personnel or by members of APIPP or other volunteers under supervision of DEC through an Adopt-a-Natural Resource Agreement.

2. Wildlife

Potential Impacts

The actions proposed in this UMP are expected to have minimal impacts on wildlife. Proposed management actions are spread over the landscape of the existing developed ski trails and lifts. New management actions are proposed at low elevations on the mountain.

Trail widening projects, including the green trails, involve existing trails. This will result in the loss of some currently treed areas along the edge of existing ski trails and move the forest edge slightly outward.

Replacing and relocation the Sunway Lift will occur in the immediate vicinity of the existing lift.

The new lift 9B will parallel the existing Lower Sunway trail and much of it will occur in an already cleared area.

Enlarging the snowmaking reservoir will entail converting 1.6 acres of shoreline wooded areas to open water.

The new groomer garage will require some tree removal in an area that has existing work roads on two sides and an existing ski trail on a third side.

The NYSEF building expansion will occur in a grassy area immediately adjacent to the existing building.

The improvements associated with the dedicated shuttle lane take place in and around existing parking areas and the existing access road and will have minimal wildlife habitat impact.

Mitigation Measures

No significant adverse impacts have been identified, therefore, no mitigation measures are required.

3. Fisheries

Potential Impacts

The only proposed management action that involves aquatic resources is the expansion of the snowmaking reservoir.

Significant adverse impacts to fisheries resources are not expected to occur as a result of reservoir drawdown for construction of the expansion. There may be some temporary short-term impacts to the fisheries resource within the reservoir proper, but these resources have

developed and persisted while the reservoir is regularly drained for inspection and maintenance activities. Downstream fisheries will not be impacted since water will continue to pass through the pond as described previously above and in Section 4.

Mitigation Measures
See the earlier section entitled Water Resources for a description of how the flow of clean inflow through the pond will be maintained in the snowmaking reservoir during the expansion process. The same section describes how the reservoir will be allowed to fill gradually after expansion is complete in order to allow for settling out of suspended solids within the reservoir before the reservoir begins to flow over the spillway.

4. Unique Areas

Potential Impacts
There are no unique biological areas present.

Mitigation Measures
No significant adverse impacts have been identified, therefore, no mitigation measures are required.

5. Critical Habitat

Potential Impacts
See **Figure** 33, Potential Bicknell's Thrush Habitat and Management Actions. No new management actions are proposed to occur above 2,800 feet in elevation. There will no impact to the Adirondack Sub Alpine Forest Bird Conservation Area.

Mitigation Measures
Any carryover actions from previous UMPs that require construction activities above 2,800 feet in elevation will not commence prior to August 1 of any year.

C. Human Resources

1. Visual Resources

Potential Impacts
The actions proposed in this UMP are expected to have minimal visual impacts. The existing ski area is already visible from some area roadways. Proposed actions are spread across the landscape of the existing developed ski trails and lifts. New management actions are proposed at low elevations on the mountain.

Trail widening projects involve existing trails. For any trails that are currently visible from off site, the visual effect of minor widenings will be essentially imperceptible.

Replacing and relocating the Sunway Lift will occur in the immediate vicinity of the existing lift.

The new lift 9B will be low on the mountain and will parallel the existing Lower Sunway trail. The widening of the green trails will occur at low elevations not visible from off site.

The snowmaking reservoir is not visible from outside the Intensive Use Area.

The new groomer garage will be located in a low elevation wooded area. Although it will be visible on-site, it will not be visible from off site

The NYSEF building is not visible from off site.

The improvements associated with the dedicated shuttle lane take place in and around existing parking areas and the existing access road that are not visible from off site.

Mitigation Measures
No significant adverse impacts have been identified, therefore, no mitigation measures are required.

2. Transportation

Potential Impacts
The proposed management actions do not include any significant expansion of mountain facilities, such as the addition of a new pod of ski trails, that would result in significant increases in peak hour traffic generation.

Mitigation Measures
No significant impacts have been identified, therefore, no mitigation measures are required.

3. Community Services

Potential Impacts
The project primarily involves improvements to existing facilities designed to retain the existing skier base and increase the future number of skiers, hikers and bikers at Gore Mountain. It is anticipated that there will be a minor incremental increase in demand for community services such as fire, police, rescue, solid waste and health care due to the gradual increase in the number of visitors to the mountain. Many of the improvements are designed to build visitation during the off-seasons of spring, summer and fall thereby distributing the potential impacts

over a 12 month period. The Ski Center presently makes very little demand on most services and the increase in such demand is anticipated to be small and can be accommodated by the service providers.

The North Creek Health Center was developed and the Warrensburg Health Center was recently expanded to respond to the growing need for services in local communities and businesses in the region. The potential long-term and incremental increase in visitors may increase the demand for medical care slightly and these facilities are capable of meeting any increased demand. The Glens Falls Hospital is also prepared to handle a minor increase in patients to the emergency room.

The extra revenue derived from EMS calls from skiers, hikers and mountain bikers helps offsets the year-round costs and therefore has a positive impact on the people who live and pay taxes in Johnsburg.

Mitigation Measures
No mitigation measures are necessary since no negative impacts have been identified.

4. Local Land Use Plans

Potential Impacts
The actions in the UMP Update are consistent with local planning documents including the 2005 Johnsburg Comprehensive Plan and the 2007 Town of Johnsburg Zoning Law/LLUP that serve to guide community planning. Both documents seek to forge stronger links between the Gore Mountain Ski Resort, the North Creek Ski Bowl, and the hamlet of North Creek, all of which are goals of Gore Mountain, ORDA and this UMP Amendment.

The UMP Amendment contains specific actions designed to encourage skiers to use both ski areas thereby increasing the overall number of skiers at both Gore Mountain and the Ski Bowl. ORDA has cooperated with North Creek in developing hiking, cross-country ski and mountain bike trails with the goal of connecting Ski Bowl Park and Gore Mountain lands.

The actions on State land authorized by this UMP Amendment will not have any effects on adjoining or nearby private lands inconsistent with local land use controls such as the Johnsburg Zoning Law and the North Creek Action Plan that serve to guide community planning. The districts and densities outside of the hamlet are exactly matched to the official APA Land Use Map. Gore Mountain Ski Center is entirely within the Intensive Use Area which was created intentionally for such a special use. Both documents seek to forge stronger links between the ski center and community, which are also goals of ORDA and this UMP Update.

While the improvements and expansion of skier facilities on the mountain will not directly affect planning and zoning in the community, it will create the potential for new skiers who will

require services in and around the hamlet of North Creek and some may choose to buy or build a second home in the area. Linkage and added amenities at Gore Mountain and Ski Bowl will also stimulate additional skier visits to the area and ultimately increase the number of consumers at local businesses. These are potential positive impacts for the local economic base and will serve to stabilize certain businesses, expand some businesses and create new businesses.

Mitigation Measures
No mitigation measures are necessary since no negative impacts have been identified.

5. Historical and Archaeological Resources

Potential Impacts
Appendix 3 contains a November 9, 2017 letter from NYS Office of Parks Recreation and Historic Preservation stating that there will be no impacts to archeological or historic resources.

Mitigation Measures
No mitigation measures are necessary since no negative impacts have been identified.

SECTION VI ALTERNATIVES

A. Alternative Trail Improvements

There are limited alternatives to the trail construction and trail widening proposed within this UMP Amendment.

When evaluating potential trail connections that would provide an alternative intermediate route from Burnt Ridge back to the Base Area on days when Echo is closed due to ski racing, three (3) separate alternatives were considered before determining the preferred route. The first alternative considered starting the new trail from the top part of Echo on skiers left, then running it generally parallel to Echo before connecting back to Echo at the bottom where the trail turns north into the base area. This alternative was not pursued primarily due to the frequency of steep and difficult terrain. The terrain was not suitable as intermediate terrain and would have resulted in extensive construction efforts to achieve a desired grade and alignment.

The second alternative considered starting the new trail from the top part of Echo, on skier's right at the first bend, then running southeast and connecting to Twister. While the terrain in this area was suitable as intermediate terrain with appropriate construction efforts, the trail would not have been able to be open on days where ski race training was occurring on Twister, which closes Twister to the skiing public. As a result this trail would not have provided a reliable intermediate connection from Burnt Ridge to the Base Area, and the length of new trail would've been shorter than desired, providing only a short section of new skiing terrain.

The third and preferred alternative connects from the top of Sagamore on skier's right, and continues southeast to the bottom of Echo where it turns towards the base area. This alternative was selected due to the suitability of terrain as intermediate terrain, the ability to connect to and utilize a previously approved trail (not yet constructed), that provides an option to ski back to the bottom of Burnt Ridge, the length of new skiing terrain offered by this alignment, and ability to provide the desired connection from the top of Burnt Ridge back to the base area on days when Echo is closed due to racing.

B. Alternative Lift Configurations

The expanded beginner terrain could conceivably be served by just the replacement and relocation of the Sunway Lift (lift 3) with the addition of the new lift 9B.

The relocated Sunway lift, in and by itself, could continue to serve the existing beginner terrain along with those beginner trail improvements proposed in this ~~Draft~~ UMP Amendment. However, beginner skiers would still be faced with terrain that they may find too challenging. As discussed previously in this document, skiers that offload at the top of the Sunway Lift, even though it is being relocated primarily for skier safety reasons, need to begin skiing on more challenging (steeper) terrain than what is present lower on the Sunway trails.

By providing the new Lift 9B which offloads lower on the mountain, the beginning skier has the option of choosing this lift as the first one they ride, as opposed to using the Sunway lift. By using Lift 9B and skiing the easier terrain on Lower Sunway, beginning skiers can then gain confidence and experience that they may otherwise need to ski the terrain served by the higher up Sunway Lift.

C. Alternative Parking/Circulation Improvements

An alternative to the currently proposed shuttle system was proposed in the 2005. The currently proposed shuttle route involves less construction in currently wooded areas and would be less impacting than the alternative proposed in 2005. The 2005 alternative include more "overland" travel between the parking lots and the base lodge than what is currently proposed. The current alternative more closely follows the existing access roads and perimeters of the existing parking lots.

D. Alternative Appurtenances

The primary new management action appurtenances in this ~~Draft~~ UMP Amendment are the relocated groomer garage and an expanded snowmaking reservoir.

Groomer Garage

The alternative of locating the new garage to the east and downhill of the existing work road, which would place it slightly closer to the existing maintenance complex, was examined. Field study showed that there are wetlands and some surface waters south of the work road which make this alternative location undesirable.

The alternative of locating the groomer garage a little more to the south was also examined in the field. This area has slightly steeper and irregular topography in comparison to the proposed location. This would likely result in a greater area of site disturbance in order to construct the garage. This alternative location would also increase the overall footprint of the maintenance complex which would result in a slight decrease in operational efficiency.

Snowmaking Reservoir

Figures 34 through 39 illustrate the options (alternatives) that were evaluated. Each alternative is described below.

The existing snowmaking reservoir covers approximately 5.2 acres with approximately 19 Mgal of storage.

Alternative 1 (**Figure** 34) involves maintaining the existing 5.2 acre foot print and grading the reservoir sideslopes to all be 3:1. This would increase the storage capacity by 4.5 Mgal to 23.5 Mgal.

Alternative 2 (**Figure** 35) involves the 3:1 slopes from Alternative 1 and expanding the pond to the west in the area of the primary inlet. This would be the one of most "constructable" alternatives. This expansion would have increased the reservoir surface by approximately 2.6 acres and added an additional storage volume of 15.3 Mgal for a total reservoir volume of 38.8 Mgal, close to the desired 40 Mgal. However, as shown on **Figure** 35, this alternative would require some extensive material alteration to the wetlands delineated around the reservoir.

Alternative 3 (**Figure** 36) is a variation on Alternative 2 and would have involved additional expansion in the southwest corner of the reservoir. This alternative would provide to 40.8 Mgal of storage, but would continue to require material alteration of wetlands.

Alternative 4 (**Figure** 37) is another variation on Alternative 2 and would have involved additional expansion in the northwest portion of the reservoir. The results would have been a storage capacity of 39.6 Mgal and material alteration of wetlands.

Alternative 5 (**Figure** 38) is a variation of Alternative 2 that only involves the expansion on the northwest corner of the reservoir. Storage volume would be 33.3 Mgal, it would avoid the wetlands in the main inlet area, but there are wetlands separate from and to the south of the reservoir that would be affected.

Alternative 6 (**Figure** 39) is a variation on Alternatives 1, 3 and 4. Under this alternative the storage volume would be increased to 30.1 Mgal and material alteration of wetlands is avoided.

E. The No-Action Alternative

If the no-action alternative were pursued, none of the new management actions proposed in this ~~Draft~~ UMP Amendment would be given consideration. Any management actions approved in earlier adopted UMPs, but not yet constructed/implemented, could remain in effect and can continue to be implemented.

The no-action alternative could mean that the following goals set by ORDA for Gore Mountain may not be attainable:

- Gore Mountain will seek to modernize facilities at Gore in order to enhance the guest experience, improve skier safety, and increase local and regional economic benefits, while maintaining environmental quality.

- Gore Mountain will seek to increase the capacity of the ski area in concert with other modernization objectives in order to provide a higher quality skiing experience.

- Gore Mountain will seek to improve its economic return by making the mountain more attractive to skiers, and thus increasing ticket sales.

- Gore Mountain will seek to improve skier safety and enjoyment by widening certain trails and improving certain trail intersections.

- Gore Mountain will seek to improve trail selection and create a better balance among trails in order to appeal to a greater cross-section of the skiing market by increasing the number of trails for the beginning and advanced skier.

- Gore Mountain will seek to develop new summer and fall usage of the Ski Center to provide greater year-round use of the facility by the public, consistent with Article 14~~XIV~~ and the SLMP.

- Gore Mountain will implement a capital improvements program to achieve the above objectives.

- Gore Mountain will seek to improve infrastructure reliability in order to reduce the high frequency of breakdown, excessive staffing requirements and consequent financial drain.

- Gore Mountain will seek to reduce its operations and maintenance costs by replacing outdated and aged equipment.

SECTION VII SUMMARY OF UNAVOIDABLE ADVERSE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

Some of the potential environmental impacts of the proposed project cannot be prevented or reasonably avoided.

7.1 Construction Phase

Construction activities inevitably result in temporary impacts including: visual, noise, vibrations, dust, fumes and odors.

During construction, while vegetation is disturbed there is an increased risk of erosion during stormwater events and a resulting adverse impact in surface water quality. As a result, the water quality in nearby receiving waters may be impacted during the course of construction due to possible erosion of excavated areas. Preparation of project-specific Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) for construction activities using the mitigation measures described in Section V.A.2 will minimize these impacts.

Construction will involve clearing of vegetation for the construction of trails, buildings, shuttle lanes and other proposed facilities. Clearing results in habitat loss that could increase runoff and adversely impact wildlife. (See Section 2 for an explanation of the Environmental Setting, and Section 5 for Potential Impacts and Mitigation Measures) While there will be tree cutting required for ski trails, tree cutting is minimized to the extent feasible and the footprint of the proposed trails are within State constitutional limits.

There may be a localized impact to air quality from dust during construction, however, this potential impact will be temporary and will not extend outside of the Intensive Use Area.

7.2 Operational Phase

There will be an incremental increased use of surface water resources for snowmaking water supply. Previous UMP studies have demonstrated that the Hudson River source capacity can easily provide additional water without any significant adverse impacts.

Wildlife may be impacted as a result of permanent removal of vegetation. As previously stated, tree cutting required for the construction of new ski trails and for trail widening is within constitutional limits.

Slightly increased attendance and operational activities as a result of the project will cause a corresponding slight increase in traffic levels, but peak hour traffic is not expected to significantly increase. The use of the shuttle system could also possible counteract slight increases in attendance by extending the duration of arrival and departures thus reducing peak traffic levels.

SECTION VIII IRREVERSIBLE AND IRRETRIEVABLE COMMITMENTS OF RESOURCES

The extent to which a proposed action may cause permanent loss of one or more environmental resources should be identified as specifically as possible based upon available information. Resources which should be considered include natural and man-made resources that would be consumed, converted or made unavailable for further uses due to construction, operation, or use of the proposed project, whether those losses would occur in the immediate future, or over the long term.

The management actions contained in this UMP Amendment do not involve any significant, irreversible or irretrievable commitment of natural resources under the footprint of the proposed new or widened ski trails or the new or relocated ski lifts. The footprint of the new groomer garage and expansion of the NYSEF building represent a small commitment of these areas to built structures.

Site work would involve the removal of existing vegetation and would disturb on-site soils. It is not believed that such impacts are significant. No rare, threatened or endangered species are known to inhabit the site.

There would be a commitment of raw materials for construction of the structures, including concrete, steel, gravel, and wood. Energy resources would be required for the construction, operation and maintenance of the expanded facility.

SECTION IX GROWTH INDUCING, SECONDARY AND CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

This section evaluates the effects of the proposed ski area improvements as they relate to the potential for such improvements to stimulate secondary impacts including an increase in local population, demand for support facilities and commercial and residential development. These secondary impacts would occur if the economic stimuli from the project generated economic activity that would result in significant growth in local populations, labor pools or demands on local services which is not expected to occur.

While the economic effect of the proposed management actions is expected to be positive, growth inducing and secondary impacts are expected to be minimal. The proposed management actions are not geared towards significantly increasing attendance at Gore Mountain. Instead, the proposed improvements are aimed retaining existing skiers and at enhancing beginner facilities to introduce more people to skiing and snowboarding and hopefully recruiting new future participants in the sports at Gore Mountain. Other improvements are geared to improving existing guest services and improving mountain operations which are not necessarily intended to cause significant increases in attendance. Spending in the local community by an increased number of patrons will provide a positive economic stimulus, but since most of the skiers will be day-visitors, the level of spending would not result in the increase in local business that occurred after the major expansion from the activities included in the 1995 UMP.

The proposed project may have some minor influence on the second home market in the nearby towns. The improvements at the Ski Center may improve the desirability of second homes in the area. This increase in desirability may translate to a slight increase in demand for, and price of, vacation homes in the area. However, this increase in demand is expected to be very minor because the Ski Center has already been in operation for many years and the incremental change in recreational facilities as a result of this project will be relatively small.

ORDA is currently contemplating simultaneous improvements on Town of Johnsburg owned lands at the North Creek Ski Bowl, outside of the Intensive Use Area. Because these actions are not within the Intensive Use Area, they are not covered within this ~~Draft~~ UMP Amendment. Instead, these actions will be subject to APA review under section 814 of the Adirondack Park Agency Act and also subject to review under SEQRA. In order to make the requisite assessment of cumulative impacts, this ~~Draft~~ UMP Amendment/GEIS is accompanied by two companion documents which will be referred to as Part B and Part C (Part A being the ~~Draft~~ UMP/GEIS). Part B is the Notice of Intent to the APA required under section 814 APA Act, including accompanying SEQRA documentation. Part C is the cumulative impact assessment of the actions proposed within the Intensive Use Area and the actions proposed at the Ski Bowl.

SECTION X EFFECTS ON THE USE AND CONSERVATION OF ENERGY

Recent past activities and future activities being undertaken at Gore Mountain will have a positive effect on the use and conservation of energy.

In the construction phase, additional energy will be consumed primarily in the form of fossil fuels to power the required construction equipment and to transport construction workers to and from the site. This will result in a temporary increase in the use of energy.

Gore is contracting two 25-year solar power purchase agreements, which combine into a massive 5.325 MW system. Using remote net metering, 85% of Gore's electrical is poised to be offset. In cooperation with Borrego Solar, Gore Mountain is efficiently harvesting sunlight for its energy needs, utilizing 14,589 ground-mounted solar panels across 20 acres of otherwise fallow farmland. The electricity generated credits Gore's meter at a rate higher than power that is traditionally produced, while providing a cleaner, more sustainable source of energy to its electric distribution zone. The agreement is projected to save Gore Mountain approximately $10 million over the life of the contract, while offsetting 113,919 tons of carbon dioxide, 71,634 pounds of nitrogen oxide emissions, and 131,835 pounds of sulfur. Gore's purchase agreement received support from Governor Cuomo's NY-Sun incentive through the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA).

In June 2016 Gore Mountain issued a Sustainability Analysis a copy of which is in **Appendix** 9. This analysis contained a section on electricity and fuel, including the following.

Diesel is used for powering maintenance equipment, snowmaking compressors and grooming equipment and for operating ski lifts during power outages. Trucks and buses are also fueled by diesel. Off-road diesel use has been reduced significantly over the last 8 years and that trend will continue. On-road diesel has had a slight average increase over the past 8 years due, primarily, to an increase in vehicles, including the shuttle bus fleet which has been accommodating the growing number of guests. Gore is actively investigating modernization of existing fleets with new technologies including electric grooming machines and hybrid buses.

Gasoline is used to operate snowmobiles for ski patrol and snowmaking as well as vehicles for travel to trade shows, meetings and conferences. There has been a slight downward trend in gasoline use over the last 8 years.

Gore Mountain propane usage had a dramatic increase after the 2007/2008 fiscal year due to the addition of the Northwoods Lodge, conversion of the base lodge's heat from fuel oil, and the addition of two more commercial kitchens. Propane is used to heat almost all of Gore Mountain's buildings, with the exception of Saddle Lodge which uses a wood stove and electric heat. The usage trend for propane is relatively flat and primarily dependent on the weather. A green heat initiative is targeted for future improvement in propane use reduction.

While electricity powers the lifts at Gore Mountain, the largest use of it is for snowmaking compressors and pumps. Gore has substantially reduced the amount of kilowatt hours (kWh) used during the last four fiscal years and the plan is to maintain this trend by continuing to replace traditional snowmaking with modernized, high efficiency guns. Gore is also modernizing their compressors with improved, more efficient drives and changing most lighting to motion sensing and high efficiency bulbs or LEDs.